

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

3:00 p.m.

W4486 North Lake Shore Drive  
Williams Bay, WI 53191

**Present:**

**Excused:**

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman  
Charles L. Colman, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas H. Buestrin  
Michael A. Crowley  
Mike Dawson  
José M. Delgado  
William R. Drew  
James T. Dwyer  
Adelene Greene  
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.  
Robert W. Pitts  
Jennifer K. Rothstein  
Jeffrey D. Schleif  
Daniel S. Schmidt  
Linda J. Seemeyer  
Peggy L. Shumway  
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Brian R. Dranzik  
James T. Ladwig  
Nancy Russell  
Michael J. Skalitzky

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Assistant Director - Administration
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Stroik called the 256<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Dranzik, Ladwig, Russell, and Skalitzky had asked to be excused.

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**INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF NEW COMMISSIONERS (MILWAUKEE COUNTY AND RACINE COUNTY)**

Chairman Stroik introduced Mr. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. as the Commission's new Milwaukee County Commissioner. He noted that Mr. Lipscomb had been appointed by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and Governor Scott Walker to serve as a Commissioner representing Milwaukee County. He noted that Mr. Lipscomb is the Milwaukee County Board Chairman and is also the 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor now serving his third term. Prior to becoming Chairman, Mr. Lipscomb served as Co-Chair of the Finance, Personnel, and Audit Committee, and has also served on every standing committee of the County Board. Prior to his service on the Milwaukee County Board, he worked many years in housing and economic development.

Chairman Stroik then noted that Mr. Lipscomb has a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Studies and a Certificate in Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has also studied at Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England, and has completed further graduate level studies in real estate finance and law.

Mr. Drew made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, to formally seat Mr. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. as a Commissioner representing Milwaukee County on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Lipscomb then stated that he looks forward to serving on the Commission.

Chairman Stroik noted that the new Commissioner from Racine County, James A. Ladwig, was unable to attend this Commission meeting. Mr. Ladwig was appointed by Governor Scott Walker to serve as a Commissioner representing Racine County. Chairman Stroik stated that Mr. Ladwig was Racine County Executive and President/CEO of Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce. He is currently the Director of Global Community Affairs for S.C. Johnson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2016, SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

On a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the July 28, 2016, Special Commission Meeting were approved as published.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Drew to present the Treasurer's Report. He noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. In commenting on the report, he called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through August 7, 2016, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$8.2 million. Revenues are projected at about \$8.3 million, exclusive of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.
2. The total amount of funds held by the Commission in the various operating, liability, and reserve accounts approximates \$4.35 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of May 1, 2016, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand approximately \$4.98 million. \$3.6 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment

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Fund. As of August 7, 2016, that fund was yielding 0.42 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and money market accounts at several banks.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Rothstein concerning the projected Community Assistance deficit, Mr. Yunker stated that activities conducted under that program area have been more extensive than anticipated under the current overall work program budget, and lesser in other program areas. Ms. Rothstein then inquired about the progress of the datum conversion project. Mr. Yunker stated that the datum conversion project will be moved forward to 2017. He added that each County has indicated an interest in this project. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Delgado, Mr. Yunker stated that this is a project which will convert the legacy 1927 horizontal datum to the North American Datum of 1983 with the National Adjustment of 2011, and the legacy 1929 vertical datum to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 adjustment of 2012. The Commission Chief Surveyor has developed a way to convert the legacy 1927 and 1929 datums to the newer datums with minimal field work at a modest cost.

There being no further questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 7, 2016, was approved (copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Planning and Research Committee**

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Schmidt to present the Planning and Research Committee report. Mr. Schmidt stated that the Planning and Research Committee has not met since the Commission's Annual meeting on June 15, 2016. Mr. Schmidt then announced that the next Planning and Research Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2016 (copy of the Planning and Research Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

### **Administrative Committee Report**

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Dwyer to present the Administrative Committee report. Mr. Dwyer noted that the report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He also noted that the Administrative Committee had met one time since the Annual Commission Meeting on June 15, 2016.

On August 18, 2016, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for seven financial periods: Year 2016 Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17; extending over the period May 2 to August 7, 2016.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending August 7, 2016.
3. Received a report that the calendar year 2015 Commission audit will be completed at the end of September.
4. Received a report that the Commission's business insurance was renewed for 2016-2017 for \$42,668 (2015-2016 business insurance was \$42,330).

There being no discussion or questions, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee Report was approved (copy of the Administrative Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

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**Executive Committee Report**

Chairman Stroik, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, provided the Executive Committee report. He stated that the Executive Committee had met once since the Annual Commission Meeting on June 15, 2016.

On August 18, 2016, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved seven contracts for planning work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2016.
4. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2015-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment to the 2015-2018 TIP was necessary to advance two projects, both of which were approved by the Commission Advisory Committee for Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area.

Mr. Yunker stated that there was one additional contract to report that was approved by the Executive Committee at their August 18, 2016, meeting: a contract with Mueller Communications to assist staff with media and public outreach with respect to the VISION 2050 plan. He noted that Mueller Communications was selected based upon their extensive knowledge of the work of the Commission. Mr. Yunker noted this contract is expected to be approximately \$35,000.

There being no questions or further discussion, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Schleif, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee Report was approved (copy of the Executive Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

**A PRESENTATION OF A CASE STUDY: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE MENOMONEE RIVER WATERSHED**

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Hahn to provide a presentation entitled, "A Presentation of a Case Study: Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for the Menomonee River Watershed". (A copy of Mr. Hahn's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Official Minutes.) Mr. Hahn noted that the Commission staff has periodically taught a watershed planning course for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education, that the Menomonee River watershed case study to be presented at this meeting was used in the course, and that this case study was the basis for a half day field trip during the course.

During the presentation, the following comments were made and questions were answered.

Mr. Colman asked what a "structure buyout" (Slide 5) was. Mr. Hahn said that the term referred to purchasing a building in the floodplain and demolishing and removing it to eliminate the flood hazard.

As Mr. Hahn was presenting the Menomonee River watershed planning timeline (Slide 7), which refers to the Lilly Creek subwatershed stormwater management plan that was prepared by the Commission in 1993, Mr. Dwyer noted that flood mitigation was accomplished in a portion of that subwatershed by purchasing and removing houses and using the vacated area for storage of runoff.

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Also in regard to Slide 7, Mr. Drew inquired how many times flow from Underwood Creek has been diverted into the Milwaukee County Grounds Detention Basin since construction of the Basin by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). Mr. Hahn stated that since the Basin was constructed and came online about five years ago, flow into the Basin may have occurred on about five to six occasions. Mr. Hahn went on to describe that flow from Underwood Creek is diverted into the Basin through a “side-channel weir” that automatically functions when the Creek water surface elevation reaches the elevation of the weir crest (top) and that the diverted flow is stored in the Basin and gradually released to the Menomonee River. He noted that the diversion, storage, and release of attenuated flow from Underwood Creek is effective in reducing flood flows because the unattenuated flow from the Creek prior to construction of the Basin made a significant contribution to the peak flood flow in the Menomonee River. Mr. Drew noted that there had not been flooding of downstream residential areas since the Basin went online.

Noting that Slide 7 refers to the “Dousman Ditch subwatershed,” Ms. Shumway requested an explanation of the nature and role of drainage ditches. Mr. Hahn explained that subsurface drain tiles are often used to lower the groundwater table in agricultural fields and that such tiles generally discharge to excavated ditches that convey the water from the fields. Ms. Shumway asked if water quality in agricultural drainage ditches was checked. Mr. Hahn replied that, while in some instances the water quality may be monitored, such monitoring in ditches is not done routinely.

While Mr. Hahn presented major plan recommendations to address sewer overflows and their effects on water quality (Slide 14), the following comments were made and questions were raised:

- Mr. Yunker asked Mr. Hahn to describe the deep tunnel system that was constructed by MMSD in the early 1990s. Mr. Hahn stated that the deep tunnel was constructed to store stormwater runoff and sewage contributed by the approximately 25-square mile combined sewer area in the City of Milwaukee and the Village of Shorewood. He said that in a combined system both stormwater running off the land surface and sewage are conveyed in the same pipe, as opposed to the typical two-pipe system, with one pipe to convey stormwater and a separate pipe to convey sewage. He noted that most of the sewage from the 411-square mile MMSD planning area is conveyed in a separate sanitary sewer. Slide 14 describes the planning process that led to the eventual construction of the deep tunnel. Mr. Hahn said that separation of the combined sewer in the 25-square mile service area was once again evaluated during the Water Quality Initiative (WQI) planning effort under which the MMSD 2020 facilities plan was prepared in conjunction with the SEWRPC regional water quality management plan for the greater Milwaukee watersheds. He indicated that the sewer separation alternative developed under the WQI was estimated to cost from \$6 billion to \$7 billion and would create major disruptions of densely developed areas of the City of Milwaukee, while the selected alternative which called for only very limited sewer separation and focused on measures to further reduce sewer overflows and to promote green infrastructure to manage stormwater quality was estimated to cost about \$2 billion.
- Mr. Yunker noted that there was a water quality benefit from operation of the combined sewer system in that the stormwater runoff that is collected in the system is conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated prior to discharge to Lake Michigan. He said that in many instances, polluted stormwater runoff from the combined sewer service area would flow directly to the estuary and then Lake Michigan if it were not collected in the combined sewer. Ms. Rothstein inquired whether that stormwater runoff contained petroleum products and fecal bacteria. Mr. Hahn replied that it did.

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- Mr. Delgado asked if there has been any expansion to the deep tunnel system since it was constructed in the early 1990s. Mr. Hahn stated that the northwest extension of the deep tunnel was built and completed within the last 10 years.
- In response to Mr. Buestrin's inquiry regarding the amount of untreated sewage discharged from the deep tunnel system during a recent combined sewer overflow, Mr. Hahn stated that about 200 thousand gallons were released. He also stated that, on an annual basis, MMSD treats approximately 98 percent of the wastewater collected in its system, and he added that the high rate of treatment indicated that the deep tunnel is definitely working.
- Mr. Colman asked what type of fish can be found in the estuary. Mr. Hahn replied that the fish in the estuary included steelhead, salmon, walleye, northern pike, bass, and some invasive species, and that removal of the North Avenue dam on the Milwaukee River in the City of Milwaukee substantially improved habitat for the fishery.

After Mr. Hahn explained the floodplain management recommendations for Underwood Creek (Slide 21), Mr. Colman asked about the planning process for such studies. He inquired about how the Commission knows when to conduct various plans, especially when it may be years later when a problem arises. Mr. Hahn stated that these studies are generally requested by local government partners such as MMSD, which has statutory jurisdiction for flood mitigation along specific streams, or the City of Brookfield and the Village of Elm Grove, which the Commission had worked with over time and which were familiar with the Commission staff capabilities in the area of flood mitigation planning. He mentioned that during the stormwater management and flood mitigation planning process for the City of Brookfield and the Village OF Elm Grove, two large floods occurred which reinforced the urgency of implementing a solution to flooding, and contributed to the plan recommendations being implemented in a relatively short period of time following completion of the plan. Mr. Yunker added that the Commission's approach includes the designation of Advisory Committee members drawn from local government and interested agencies to work together with the Commission staff on developing plans to address the issues in their communities. He said that the involvement of those Committee members provides an impetus for implementing the plans.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker if there was any correspondence or announcements.

Mr. Yunker stated there was no correspondence.

Chairman Stroik then announced that the Administrative and Executive Committee meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016, are both cancelled. He then stated that the date of the October Administrative and Executive Committee meetings is being changed from Thursday, October 27, to Wednesday, October 26. He noted that the meeting times remain the same. Mr. Yunker assured the Commissioners that Commission staff will send out an announcement and an email regarding these meeting changes. He further explained that the Federal Highway Administration and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation have scheduled an all-day Transportation Summit on Thursday, October 27, focusing on transportation and environmental justice. They have asked the Commission to participate in and co-sponsor this Summit. Commission staff--Ken Yunker, Mike Hahn, and Kevin Muhs--will attend this Transportation Summit.

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**CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE UPCOMING QUARTERLY  
COMMISSION MEETING**

Chairman Stroik indicated that the next Quarterly Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in Milwaukee County at a location to be announced.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker  
Deputy Secretary

KRY/MGH/EAL/dd  
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