

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

1:30 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53187

Meeting Occurred in Person and Virtually via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Donna Brown-Martin
Charles L. Colman
Michael A. Crowley
Brian Holt
Mary Knipper
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Natalia Minkel-Dumit
John O'Day
Robert W. Pitts
Jeffrey D. Schleif
Peggy L. Shumway
David L. Stroik
Adam Tindall-Schlicht

James A. Ladwig
Aloysius Nelson

Staff:

Kevin J. Muhs	Executive Director
Benjamin R. McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Director of Administration
Carrie Pozum	Human Resources Assistant/Bookkeeper

ROLL CALL

Chairman Schmidt called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Schmidt indicated for the record that Commissioners Ladwig and Nelson had asked to be excused.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2021, MEETING

Chairman Schmidt asked if there were any changes or additions to the May 4, 2021, meeting minutes. There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the May 4, 2021, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Muhs to review with the Committee the Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Muhs noted that a preliminary draft of the CEDS was discussed at the May 4, 2021, meeting and that the final draft of the CEDS is being reviewed by the County Board of Supervisors of the seven Counties in the Region. Mr. Muhs noted that the draft CEDS document was developed as the result of a partnership between the Commission and the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Development Partnership (M7). He stated that a new CEDS must be prepared every five years for Counties and local governments in the Region with economically distressed areas to remain eligible for U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants.

As Mr. Muhs reviewed the CEDS document, the following questions and comments were addressed:

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Holt, Mr. Muhs stated that new residents will need to be attracted to the Region for the first time in decades in order to maintain the workforce needed to fill new jobs and grow the economy.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Muhs stated that Federal immigration policy was not considered in preparing the CEDS document.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Schleif, Mr. Muhs stated that staff is not aware of data regarding the impact of Federal immigration policy on the Region's workforce. Mr. Holt commented that there is a labor shortage in the agricultural sector in Walworth County.

Mr. Lipscomb commented on the lists of projects and asked if a specific project must be listed in the CEDS to be eligible for EDA funding. Mr. Muhs responded that a project may still be eligible for funding if it is not listed but consistent with the goals, strategies, or actions of the CEDS.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Lipscomb, Mr. Muhs stated that Counties, local governments, or certain non-profit organizations working in coordination with a County or local government may submit a project grant application.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Crowley, Mr. Muhs stated that projects from the 2015-2020 CEDS that have not been implemented have been carried over to the 2021-2025 CEDS unless a County or local government requested its removal.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Crowley, Mr. Muhs stated that other regional planning commissions in the State have prepared a CEDS with the exception of the Capital Area Region where the regional economic development agency prepared the CEDS.

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There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Ms. Donna Brown-Martin and carried unanimously, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2021-2025 was recommended to be considered for approval by the Commission.

Mr. Schleif noted that for the record, Washington County is in favor of the overall document, but not in favor of the politicizing of some of the goals, strategies, and actions contained in the document.

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION WORK EFFORTS

Mr. Muhs began the discussion by reviewing the Commission By-Laws as they relate to the Planning and Research Committee. Mr. Muhs then described different types of Commission plans and services and how they relate to the functions of the Planning and Research Committee.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Schleif concerning an update to the Regional Water Supply Plan, Mr. Muhs stated that only the long-range regional land use and transportation plan is required to have a 20-year planning horizon.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Knipper concerning hazard mitigation plans, Mr. Muhs stated that these plans are requested by Counties or local governments and fulfill requirements set forth by the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Crowley commented that in the past a brief overview of Commission work efforts was presented to the Waukesha County Board and suggested this should be done annually as it is important for the Supervisors to understand what the Commission offers. Mr. Muhs agreed and noted that this is done for a number of other Counties in the Region as well.

Ms. Knipper noted that it would be helpful to reiterate to the Counties that the tax levy request has not been increased since 2006.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be held on November 9, 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Muhs announced that Mr. Schleif will be appointed as Vice-Chairman on the Planning and Research Committee succeeding Commissioner Delgado. Mr. Muhs recognized Mr. Delgado for his service and thanked Mr. Schleif for succeeding Mr. Delgado.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Holt, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Muhs
Deputy Secretary