

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

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:

Michael A. Crowley, Chairman  
Charles Colman  
Katrina Hanson  
John Holloway  
Brian Holt  
Dewayne Johnson  
Mary Knipper  
Michael Maistelman  
Natalia Minkel-Dumit  
Robert W. Pitts  
Peggy L. Shumway  
Eric Stelter  
David L. Stroik

Donna Brown-Martin  
Priscilla Coggs-Jones  
Jonathan Delagrave  
James Ladwig  
Amy Maurer  
Jeffrey D. Schleif

Staff:

Stephanie R. Hacker	Executive Director
Benjamin R. McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Director of Administration
Alina Panasiuk	Accounting/HR Specialist

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Crowley called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Crowley indicated for the record that Commissioners Brown-Martin, Coggs-Jones, Delagrave, Ladwig, Maurer, and Schleif had asked to be excused.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2023, MEETING**

Chairman Crowley asked if there were any changes or additions to the June 14, 2023, meeting minutes. There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Holt, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the June 14, 2023, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

**REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN: AMENDMENT TO THE DOUSMAN SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA**

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. McKay to review the proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the Dousman sanitary sewer service area. A copy of the preliminary draft of the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated July 17, 2023, concerning this matter was provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. McKay indicated that by letter dated November 30, 2022, the Village of Dousman requested that the Commission amend the Dousman sanitary sewer service area. He stated that the purpose of the amendment is to include certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside of, the currently adopted sewer service area, and to remove certain lands from the sewer service area.

Mr. McKay directed the attention of the Committee members to Map 1, which identifies the proposed area to be added to the Dousman sewer service area. He stated that the subject area encompasses 147 acres, which includes one existing homesite located outside the planned sanitary sewer service area. The subject area also contains 26 acres of environmentally significant lands, with 26 acres of primary environmental corridor including 8.9 acres of wetland within the primary environmental corridor, and less than 0.1 acres of wetland outside the environmental corridor.

Mr. McKay further noted the two areas to be removed from the sanitary sewer service area encompass 191 acres in total. The northern area is primarily comprised of agricultural land with one existing homesite. The southern area is primarily comprised of single-family residential development and includes 108 existing homesites. Neither area is provided with public sanitary sewer service. The northern area to be removed from the sanitary sewer service area does not include environmentally sensitive lands. The southern area includes 21 acres of primary environmental corridor including 6.3 acres of wetland, about seven acres of isolated natural resource area (consisting almost entirely of wetlands), and one acre of wetland located outside the environmental corridor and isolated natural resource area.

Under the Village of Dousman comprehensive plan, the future land use for the area to be added is planned to be developed as business, high-density multifamily residential development, and small lot single-family residential development.

Mr. McKay stated that the net effect of the proposed changes to the Dousman sanitary sewer service area represents a decrease in the planned sewer service area of about 44 acres or less than 1 percent. He noted the provision of 389 housing units to be added to the subject area would increase the resident population of this portion of the Dousman sewer service area by 689 persons, which would be within the VISION 2050 population projection range.

Mr. McKay stated that the Village of Dousman wastewater treatment facility has an average annual capacity of 0.57 million gallons per day and the additional net flow generated from the proposed development and areas to be removed is about 0.06 million gallons per day. The treatment plant has adequate capacity to treat wastewater flows from the net areas to be added and removed.

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Mr. McKay then said that a public hearing was held on July 17, 2023. There were no objections to the proposed amendment at the hearing. The Dousman Village Board also adopted this amendment on July 17, 2023.

The amendment is consistent with the land use component of VISION 2050, the regional water quality management plan, and Chapter NR 121 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* governing the preparation of areawide water quality management plans.

Mr. McKay stated that the staff recommendation is for the Committee to recommend that the Commission amend the Village of Dousman sanitary sewer service area. Upon adoption by the Commission, the amendment will be provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for approval and the WDNR will then provide the amendment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for certification.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. McKay stated that the more southern area to be removed is developed with low-density housing that is not anticipated to be provided with public sanitary sewer service in the future.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holloway, Mr. McKay stated that the community requesting the amendment provides notice of the public hearing.

There being no additional questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Shumway, the Amendment to the Village of Dousman Sanitary Sewer Service Area was unanimously recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Commission.

#### **PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON THE CHLORIDE IMPACT STUDY**

Mr. Crowley asked Mr. McKay to provide an update on the Chloride Impact Study. Mr. McKay introduced Ms. Laura K. Herrick, Chief Environmental Engineer, and asked her to provide the update to the Committee.

During Ms. Herrick's update, the following questions and comments were addressed.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Ms. Herrick stated that most organic deicers take oxygen out of water. Brines are essentially diluted salt, so brines do contain chlorides but at significantly reduced volumes.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Ms. Herrick provided potential recommendations on how to reduce chloride use. These could include brining, calibrating water softeners, or potential removal at the wastewater treatment plants.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Knipper, Ms. Herrick stated that there is no existing model or template for this report and the Commission is breaking new ground with the Chloride Impact Study.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holt, Ms. Herrick responded that very detailed stream and lake data was gathered from 2017-2021, and there are other sources of chloride data that will be used as well. All the chloride data that has been gathered will be discussed in an upcoming technical report.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Minkel-Dumit, Ms. Herrick stated that Commission staff have reached out to private deicing contractors but have not been successful in getting their winter data. Mr. Johnson noted that outreach and education to private contractors is important. Ms. Herrick also noted that staff is working with communities to obtain their deicing data as well.

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In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holloway, Ms. Herrick stated that staff ended the sampling effort in 2021. Mr. Holloway and Mr. Johnson commented that continued sampling could be beneficial but would also be expensive.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Ms. Larsen stated that the study was requested by former Walworth County Commissioner Nancy Russell.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Knipper, Ms. Herrick stated that recommendations will be included in the final planning report for the study, which is scheduled to be completed by 2025 at the earliest.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Shumway, Ms. Herrick stated that staff has presented information about the salt content of area waterbodies, including Little Muskego Lake, at multiple conferences. She also noted that the information will be more widely available when the technical report summarizing the collected data is published.

Mr. Crowley noted that the City of Waukesha shortly will switch to a Lake Michigan water source, which should reduce or eliminate the need for local water softeners. Ms. Herrick responded that that is correct, but it is unknown how many residents will no longer actually use their water softeners.

Mr. Crowley asked if there were any other questions about the update. There were none.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be held on November 7, 2023.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. McKay if there were any correspondence or announcements. Mr. McKay stated that the next quarterly Commission meeting will be held on September 13, 2023, in Racine County.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Stelter, seconded by Ms. Minkel-Dumit, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin R. McKay  
Deputy Director

BRM/EAL/LKH  
#269340