

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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 Crowley, Chair
Paul Decker
Tom Kramer
Jeffrey Schleif
Eric Stelter
David Stroik

Brian Holt
Amy Maurer

Staff and Guests:

Stephanie Hacker	Executive Director
Ben McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth Larsen	Director of Administration
Jim Zehner	Communications Specialist
Isaac Rowlett	Milwaukee County Commissioner (to be seated in December)

ROLL CALL

Chair Crowley called the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present. Mr. Crowley indicated for the record that Commissioners Holt and Maurer had asked to be excused. Mr. Crowley provided clarification on the purpose of the Committee and Commissioner Decker was named Vice Chair of the Committee by Mr. Crowley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2014, MEETING

Mr. Crowley asked if there were any changes or additions to the July 1, 2014, meeting minutes. There were none.

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On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the July 1, 2014, Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee Meeting were approved.

REVIEW OF SECTION 66.0309 OF THE WISCONSIN STATUTES CREATION, ORGANIZATION, AND POWERS AND DUTIES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Mr. Crowley asked Mr. McKay to review Section 66.0309(8) of *Wisconsin Statutes* regarding the functions of regional planning commissions.

The following comments and questions were made during the review.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Decker, Mr. McKay stated that in some cases the Commission staff receives automatic notices of meetings at the State, County, and local levels to stay aware of how other governmental units are working on issues of potential intergovernmental consequence. In addition, the Commission staff monitors newspapers and other media for news related to the Commission's work, and the Commission's Community Engagement Division gathers updates on activities through their engagement efforts to agencies and community organizations.

Mr. Decker commented that the Commission and this Committee can perform an important service in improving engagement and intergovernmental coordination with other agencies and stakeholders, so that they are aware of the work done by the Commission and efforts aren't duplicated. Mr. McKay explained that one of the Commission's key functions is being a coordinating agency for the Region with County and local governments and Federal and State agencies.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Stroik, Mr. McKay stated that the process of County withdrawal from regional planning commissions is detailed under Section 66.0309 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* and provided a brief overview. Ms. Hacker noted that no County has either submitted formal notice to withdraw from the Commission or initiated the arbitration of fees for 2026. Mr. Crowley stated that if the point is reached where there is official notification from a County regarding withdrawal, the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee, Executive Committee, and Full Commission will have the opportunity to engage in the formal process to be undertaken.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Decker, Ms. Hacker referenced Article 2, Section 3 of the Commission Bylaws regarding the procedures for discussing pending issues that arise between regular Committee meetings. She stated special meetings may be called by the Chair to discuss issues that may arise between regular Committee meetings. Special meetings shall also be called by written request from three or more Commissioners.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE PURPOSE, STRUCTURE, AND PAST AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McKay distributed a memo about the reconvening of the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee. The memo outlined Committee structure, purpose and history of the Committee, potential future and recurring agenda items, and requesting an agenda item.

Mr. McKay noted that the Committee has traditionally focused on critical issues with regional impacts. Past agenda items have included issues of regional consequence (Great Lakes Compact, allocation of Federal transit funds), local government finance, and shared services.

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DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL FUTURE/RECURRING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Crowley asked Mr. Zehner to discuss potential future and recurring agenda items. Mr. Zehner highlighted the items included in the memo distributed during the previous agenda item. Future agenda items are likely to include developing consistent and proactive lines of communication with Counties regarding Commission work, budget and service charges, County/community needs, and alignment of activities with the Commission's Strategy for 2030.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Schleif, Ms. Hacker stated multiple Counties have raised the questions about certain services the Commission provides. The Commission's three main sources of revenue are Federal funding, the tax levy from the seven Counties, and service fee agreements. Some services the Commission provides are regulatorily required, while others are not and offered by request. One of the strategies in the Commission's Strategy for 2030 is producing a funding factbook to explain the agency's revenue sources and budget breakdown of funding for the Commission's different functions.

Mr. Decker emphasized the importance of the Commission being more proactive in sharing and aligning information with Counties and County Boards on the Commission's work and areas of future planning. Commissioners can help in this regard by being a conduit to convey pertinent information. Mr. Crowley noted that the Commission is taking steps to improve and increase communications, building on current communications activities and aligning efforts with the Strategy for 2030.

Mr. Decker suggested that a future agenda item could be defining what "intergovernmental" means in terms of identifying and involving other government agencies and stakeholders in inter-regional activities. As part of this, the Commission's role in intergovernmental coordination, facilitation, and communication should also be identified.

Mr. Rowlett emphasized the importance of communicating with the Region's municipalities about the Region's economic growth and development potential and the value of participating in the Commission in future planning for the Region.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Crowley stated that in discussions with Commission leadership staff it has been established that the Committee should meet at least twice a year. An agenda for the next meeting needs to be developed based on topics raised during this meeting and other agenda requests, with a potential next meeting in January or February 2026.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crowley asked Ms. Hacker if there were any correspondence or announcements. Ms. Hacker noted that the Planning and Research Committee's next meeting is November 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. McKay noted that the meeting would include a review of the Regional Natural Areas Plan Update.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Schleif, seconded by Mr. Decker, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hacker
Executive Director

BRM/JZ
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