

Minutes of the Sixty-Ninth Meeting of the

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND BENEFITS TASK FORCE

DATE: December 9, 2025

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Aloysius Nelson, Chair Sigma Pi Phi (the Boulé)
 Yolanda Adams Board of Education Member, Kenosha Unified School District
 Huda Alkaff Founder & Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims
 Donna Brown-Martin..... (Retired) Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and Bureau
 Director, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 Brad Holz..... Board Member, Independence First
 Keith Martin..... Construction Representative Senior, Wisconsin Department of Administration
 N. Lynnette McNeely..... Legal Redress Chair, Waukesha County NAACP
 GeorgeAnn Stinson..... President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Racine

Members Excused

Annabell Bustillos..... Bilingual Outreach Advocate, BeLeaf Survivors
 Kermiath McClendon..... Impact Investment Manager, Greater Milwaukee Foundation
 Jackie Schellinger Indian Community Representative, Retired Judge

Commission Staff Present

Eric Lynde..... Special Projects Director
 Benjamin McKay Deputy Director
 Nakeisha Payne..... Chief Community Engagement Specialist
 Jennifer Sarnecki..... Deputy Chief Transportation Planner
 Dana M. Shinnars..... Senior Transportation Planner

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Nelson called the meeting of the Community Engagement and Benefits Task Force (Task Force) to order at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Nelson welcomed Ms. Brown-Martin to the Task Force and acknowledged her previous work with the Commission and Task Force. He announced that Ms. Mendez Barrutia resigned from the Task Force.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. Nelson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2025, meeting ([link](#)). Ms. McNeely moved, and Ms. Brown-Martin seconded the approval of the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

DISCUSSION OF UPDATES TO THE TASK FORCE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND COMMITMENT FORM

Mr. Nelson introduced the agenda item and invited staff to share more information. Mr. McKay stated that recent communications from the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), along with the every-two-year review of the Guidance Document, prompted a discussion of the document at the September meeting. He reminded members that, following that meeting, staff updated the Task Force name and drafted corresponding changes to Guidance Document and Commitment Form ([link](#)). Ms. Shinners described the proposed changes to the Guidance Document. The following discussion occurred:

1. Ms. McNeely suggested that the Guidance Document be reviewed every five years, or at the chair's discretion, to alleviate administrative burden. Ms. Brown-Martin proposed that the Guidance Document be reviewed every four years to coincide with the Commission's quadrennial review.

[Secretary's Note: The Guidance Document was revised to reflect a four-year review schedule.]

2. Ms. McNeely asked that the Guidance Document include any specific outputs or deliverables that the Task Force is responsible for. Ms. Brown-Martin agreed with Ms. McNeely's comments on deliverables and recommended that the Task Force develop a work plan. Mr. McKay responded that the Task Force reviews and comments on regional plans and that Task Force comments are considered by advisory committees and incorporated into final plans.
3. Ms. McNeely said that there may be an opportunity for the Task Force to provide roles, other than chair, such as vice chair or working in subcommittees. Mr. McKay noted that the Task Force has had a vice chair in the past and that the Guidance Document specifies that a vice chair may be appointed.
4. Ms. McNeely asked to consider adding the following statement to the Guidance Document: "This obligation is rooted in core democratic principles: a functioning democracy requires that every person—not just the historically privileged—has a real voice in shaping public systems and public investments. Ensuring meaningful participation is not symbolic; it is essential to a democratic process where all people feel valued, included, and recognized as full partners in decisions that affect their lives." Mr. Nelson requested to add this as an action item.

[Secretary's Note: Staff reviewed the statement and made edits to the "Purpose and Background" section of the Guidance Document to reflect the importance of public involvement in the Commission's work to provide objective information to aid decision-makers.]

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION

At Mr. Nelson's request, Ms. Payne shared a presentation on recent Community Engagement Division activities ([link](#)). She noted that staff held a 45-day comment period for the Community Engagement Plan, which provides guidance on outreach activities, and was in the process of publishing the final plan.

Ms. Brown-Martin said that she would like to attend and offer support at Community Engagement activities. Ms. Stinson and Ms. McNeely agreed.

REVIEW OF DRAFT 2026 PRIMARY ORGANIZATIONS LIST

At Mr. Nelson's request, Ms. Payne reviewed the draft list of Primary Organizations for 2026 ([link](#)). She stated that Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative incorporated into VIA CDC this year and therefore will be removed from the list. She noted one addition to the list, the Environmental Youth Collaborative.

1. Mr. Nelson commented that he has observed a lot of collaboration between Racine and Kenosha Counties.
2. Ms. McNeely asked to aggregate the list by category. She suggested four categories, one of which could be civil rights. She also asked about the NAACP Wisconsin State Conference. Ms. Payne responded that she represents the Kenosha Branch as the Environmental Justice Chair and regularly meets with the State through that work.
3. Mr. Nelson agreed that categories would make the list easier to navigate. He asked to add a point of contact for each organization. Mr. McKay suggested that members contact Commission staff for a point of contact for an organization.
4. Ms. McNeely indicated that the Primary Organizations may be interested in attending Task Force meetings. Mr. Nelson agreed and suggested inviting Primary Organizations to Task Force meetings.

REVIEW OF TASK FORCE ACTION ITEM LIST

Ms. Sarnecki stated that the action item list ([link](#)) has not changed since the September meeting. She noted that staff will add the consideration of additional language to the Guidance Document discussed earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Brown-Martin asked how to provide comments for a work plan. She noted the need for research on data centers.

Ms. McNeely asked about research on solar, wind, and geothermal energy and impacts on traditionally underrepresented populations. Mr. McKay shared that staff are working on research papers on solar placement and data centers. Ms. McNeely asked that research include best practices to help to inform discussions that Task Force members may be having in other groups.

OVERVIEW OF COMPOSITION OF APPLICANTS FOR RECENTLY FILLED COMMISSION POSITIONS

Mr. McKay informed the Task Force that one long-time intern was hired full-time in the Environmental Division.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Shinnars stated that the email address ceb-taskforce@sewrpc.org will be used for future correspondence with Task Force members.

Ms. McNeely shared that the Milwaukee and Waukesha NAACP chapters are working for greater transparency regarding a recent incident at Brookfield Hills Golf Course.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Mr. McKay announced that the Task Force intends to hold an in-person meeting in March 2026 to help orient new members and convene the group for an extended discussion. Agenda items would include VISION 2060 and overview of work performed by each Division of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nelson thanked the members and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Shiners
Recording Secretary
