MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:30 p.m.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Meeting Occurred Virtually via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:	**Excused:**
Committee Members:	
Natalia Minkel-Dumit, Committee Chair	Priscilla Coggs-Jones
Amy Maurer, Committee Vice Chair	Adam Jaramillo
Michael Crowley	Tom Kramer
Paul Decker	Isaac Rowlett
John Holloway	Donald Trottier
Brian Holt	
Dewayne Johnson	
Trevor Jung	
Robert Pitts	
Adam Tindall-Schlicht	

Staff:

Stephanie Hacker	Executive Director
Benjamin McKay	Deputy Director
Laura Herrick	Chief Environmental Engineer

ROLL CALL

Chair Minkel-Dumit called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2026, MEETING

Ms. Minkel-Dumit asked if there were any changes or additions to the May 5, 2026, meeting minutes. There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Holt, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the May 5, 2026, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

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

Ms. Minkel-Dumit asked Mr. McKay to review the proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the Village of Bloomfield sanitary sewer service area. A copy of the draft of the Staff Memorandum dated May 11, 2026, concerning this matter was provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. McKay indicated that in a letter dated September 27, 2023, the Village of Bloomfield requested that the Commission amend the Bloomfield sanitary sewer service area, tributary to the Village of Bloomfield sewage treatment facility. 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.

Mr. McKay stated that the amendment includes two subject areas. One area is 90 acres in size and the other area is 74 acres in size. He also stated that both subject areas have environmental corridors where the extension of sewers to serve new development would not be permitted.

Mr. McKay stated that the combined proposed additions of approximately 164 acres to the Bloomfield sewer service area represents an increase in the Bloomfield planned sewer service area of 11 percent. He stated the subject areas are proposed to be developed with residential use. It is estimated that upon full development, the subject areas would accommodate about 245 housing units with an estimated population of about 600 people. The Bloomfield sewer service area would lie within 10 percent of the VISION 2050 population projection range and be consistent with the DOA 2050 population projection for Bloomfield.

Mr. McKay stated that the Village of Bloomfield wastewater treatment facility has an average annual capacity of 0.46 million gallons per day. The additional net flow generated from the proposed additions is expected to be about 0.07 million gallons per day. The treatment plant has adequate capacity to treat wastewater flows from the subject areas.

Mr. McKay then noted that a public hearing was held on May 11, 2026. There were no objections to the proposed amendment at the hearing. The Bloomfield Village Board also approved the amendment on May 11, 2026. 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 Bloomfield 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.

On a motion by Mr. Holt, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the amendment to the Village of Bloomfield sanitary sewer service area was unanimously recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Commission.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CHAPTERS 1 THROUGH 6 OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 57, *A CHLORIDE IMPACT STUDY FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN*

Ms. Minkel-Dumit introduced Ms. Herrick and asked her to present draft Chapters 1 through 6 of the study. Ms. Herrick noted that the chapters had been provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting and presented the chapters.

The following questions and comments were made during the presentation.

Ms. Minkel-Dumit suggested that the summary overview in Chapter 1, *Introduction and Background*, could be more extensive. Ms. Minkel-Dumit added that it could be helpful to prepare an executive summary for the general public.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Ms. Herrick stated that treating roadways is the primary source contributing chloride to water resources. She stated the second largest contributor is wastewater treatment plants and private onsite wastewater treatment systems. She stated the third largest is agricultural operations.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Crowley, Ms. Herrick stated that Lake Michigan chloride levels are discussed in the study. There are low yet rising levels of chloride that have been increasing since the 1960s at a consistent rate.

In response to an inquiry made by Mr. Holloway, Ms. Herrick stated that data regarding sources of chloride goes back to the 1960s; however, the most accurate data was gathered between 2018 and 2021 from the field sampling done for the study.

Ms. Minkel-Dumit suggested clarifying Figure 4.9 in Chapter 4, *Impacts of Chloride in the Environment*.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Minkel-Dumit, Ms. Herrick stated that conductance is a surrogate. It measures electric conductivity in water, and in Southeastern Wisconsin conductance is dominated by chlorides.

In response to an inquiry made by Mr. Holloway, Ms. Herrick stated that many people east of the subcontinental divide rely on Lake Michigan as their source of drinking water and those west of the subcontinental divide rely on groundwater.

Mr. Johnson suggested adding a table to Chapter 6, *Chloride Conditions in Southeastern Wisconsin*, to help present chloride conditions in groundwater. Ms. Herrick noted that there is a similar table in Technical Report No. 63, which presents an analysis of chloride conditions and trends in the Region's streams and lakes. Ms. Herrick stated she would add the table to Chapter 6.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holloway, Ms. Herrick stated the audience for the technical reports includes technical officials with agencies like the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and other governmental units in the Region. She added that WDNR staff will use this study as a proxy for a total maximum daily load analysis and use it to develop strategies throughout the State.

In response to an additional inquiry by Mr. Holloway, Ms. Herrick stated that the purpose of the planning report is to present the information in the technical reports prepared for the study in a manner that is approachable to elected officials and the general public. She also stated that the planning report will present

recommendations to reduce the level of chlorides introduced into water resources in the Region that can be used by the public and private sectors.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Jung, Ms. Herrick stated that Commission staff has been corresponding with WDNR staff about the study's goals and policy recommendations that could be implemented at the local and State levels.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holt, Ms. Herrick stated that the first goal is to stabilize current chloride levels. Ms. Herrick stated reductions of chloride entering water resources from every source would be needed to noticeably impact chloride levels and that it is unlikely there will be a short-term impact on reduction due to existing high chloride levels. Mr. Holt stated this should be emphasized to demonstrate the urgency of implementing study recommendations.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Ms. Herrick stated that more research, funding, and outreach to the private sector is needed to develop new technologies for reducing chlorides entering water resources. Ms. Herrick stated that Commission staff will work with WDNR staff on potential next steps to implement study recommendations. Mr. Tindall-Schlicht stated that the Great Lakes Protection Fund and Fund for Lake Michigan may be potential grant opportunities for future work. Ms. Herrick added that the Commission did receive funding from the Federal Highway Administration, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Fund for Lake Michigan, and the WDNR to prepare the study.

Ms. Herrick closed the presentation by stating that the final chapters of the study will be presented to the study's Technical Advisory Committee in October and to the Planning and Research Committee at the November meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Crowley, seconded by Ms. Maurer, and carried unanimously, the Committee approved Chapters 1 through 6 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 57.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McKay stated the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 20 at 1:30 p.m. and the next Planning and Research Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hacker
Executive Director

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