

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 30, 2005

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Robert A. Brooks (Alternate)
Richard A. Hansen
Allen L. Morrison
Daniel S. Schmidt
Paul G. Vrakas
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Adelene Robinson
Linda J. Seemeyer

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Drew, Robinson, and Seemeyer had asked to be excused. Mr. Buestrin noted that he had asked Mr. Brooks to attend the meeting as an alternate member of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2005, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 26, 2005, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. VRAKAS REPORTING

(Meeting of June 30, 2005)

Mr. Vrakas reported that the Administrative Committee, at its meeting held just before the Executive Committee meeting, had taken the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for two financial reporting periods: Year 2005 Nos. 11 and 12, extending over the period May 15, 2005, to June 12, 2005.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending June 12, 2005. With nearly 50 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$104,000, not counting a \$200,000 set-aside for the Rockwood Drive Building Redemption Fund.
3. Accepted a proposal by the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company to provide comprehensive business insurance coverage to the Commission for the year beginning on July 28, 2005. The renewal quotation of \$44,450 represented a decline of about \$4,100 from the current premium, that decline largely attributable to more favorable experience in the workers compensation claim area.
4. Received and approved a report that an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Commissioners Buestrin, Schmidt, and Vrakas and the Executive Director, had proposed annual salary adjustments in the amount of 3 percent of base salaries. Such adjustments were made on the basis of merit.
5. Received a report that the Commission Chairman and Executive Director are in negotiations with Medical Associates, Inc., for an extension of the lease in the Rockwood Drive building for at least two additional years. The present lease expires at the end of March 2006. The negotiations include the possibility of expanding the leased space by nearly 1,000 square feet.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee report was approved.

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to review the proposed contracts and agreements, noting that the Committee members had received a table listing the contracts and agreements prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the eight contracts reported on the table. He called attention in particular to the consultant contract for the Milwaukee County topographic mapping program and to the agreements relative to the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail extension project where the Commission is acting as fiscal agent for the Counties and Cities of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, the report relative to the contracts was accepted and placed on file (copy of report attached to Official Minutes.)

GEO 29 REVIEW

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to report on the Federal grants and loans and direct Federal development projects submitted to the Commission for intergovernmental review pursuant to the requirements set forth in Gubernatorial Executive Order No. 29.

Mr. Evenson noted that summaries of the ten project applications were provided to the Committee members with the agenda for the meeting. There were no conflicts, he said, between any of the projects and the adopted regional plans.

During a brief discussion, Mr. Hansen observed, with specific respect to the two housing development grants submitted by faith-based organizations, that the cost per unit of housing provided of about \$100,000 seems to be quite high owing to the fact that new construction is involved. Mr. Hansen indicated that he is involved in organizations that focus on rehabbing older units and that \$50,000 per unit would be about as high as those organizations would go to achieve similar results. Mr. Evenson indicated that the staff appreciated Mr. Hansen's comments and that he would try to address those comments in an appropriate way as the Commission proceeds with the preparation of a new housing plan later this year.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Hansen, and carried unanimously, the following ten applications were recommended to the grantor agencies for approval as being in conformance, or not in conflict, with adopted regional plans: four community action programs (CAP-2138 and CAP-2141); four conservation programs (CONSER-943 through CONSER-946); and two housing programs (HOUS-584 through HOUS-585) (copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO 2005-2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Evenson noted that the Committee members had been provided in advance of the meeting a copy of Resolution 2005-13 and a series of tables that seek to amend the 2005-2007 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Encompassed within the proposal, he said, are nine amendments. Eight of the nine amendments, he continued, involve bridge replacement projects to be undertaken by Washington County on both arterial and non-arterial street and highway facilities. The ninth project was submitted by Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and seeks Federal funds to provide loans to low-income families in Waukesha County for the purpose of purchasing automobiles that will ensure transportation to jobs. This last project, he said, is similar to the project the Commission reviewed last month by the Social Development Commission of Milwaukee County. The projects are consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan; moreover, the projects have been approved by the Commission's advisory committees governing these matters by a postcard ballot.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2005-13 was adopted (copy attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF ADDITION TO ROSTER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

Mr. Evenson recalled that at its meeting on March, 31, 2005, the Executive Committee had approved the creation of an Advisory Committee on regional water supply planning. Through a staff oversight, he said, a roster slot had been left off of the list submitted to the Committee. That roster slot had been intended for a representative of the building and development community. Accordingly, he said, he was proposing at

this time that the Executive Committee authorize the expansion of the Advisory Committee to include a representative of the Metropolitan Builders Association of Milwaukee.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, to expand the roster of the Advisory Committee on regional water supply planning to include a representative of the Metropolitan Builders Association of Milwaukee.

STAFF REPORTS AND ATTENDANT ACTIONS

Regional Water Supply Study

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission staff had completed a process that involved the solicitation of requests for qualifications for consultant engineering services in connection with the preparation of the forthcoming regional water supply system plan. He then distributed a memorandum describing the results of the solicitation process (copy attached to Official Minutes). He noted that the three-member staff panel that reviewed the requests for qualifications unanimously ranked Ruckert & Mielke, Inc., as the top-ranked firm, with the Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers/CDM team as the second-ranked firm. Given the result of this process, Mr. Evenson said that it was the staff's recommendation that the Commission attempt to negotiate an agreement within the study budget with Ruckert & Mielke, Inc., for supplemental engineering services. Should those negotiations fail, it is further recommended that an attempt be made to negotiate an agreement with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers/CDM.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Brooks, and carried unanimously to approve the staff report of the engineering services solicitation process and authorize the Commission staff to proceed with contract negotiations as recommended.

K-R-M Commuter Rail Study

Mr. Evenson recalled that the Commission is acting as agent for the Counties and Cities of Kenosha, Milwaukee and Racine, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with respect to the project that will accomplish advanced planning and environmental work attendant to the proposed K-R-M Commuter Rail Service. He noted that the Steering Committee for this project had recently reviewed proposals submitted by teams of consultants and had narrowed its choice to two firms, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., and Earth Tech, Inc./HNTB. The Steering Committee is scheduled to interview these two firms in the very near future. Mr. Evenson also reported that the effort by the chief elected officials in the corridor, working with the Greater Milwaukee Committee, had led to the inclusion in the forthcoming State Biennial Budget Bill, as recently approved by the State Assembly, of the creation of a three-county Regional Transit Authority. That Authority would be funded, at least temporarily, by a vehicle rental fee and would be directed to conduct studies essential to the preparation of a report to the State Legislature by November 15, 2008, relative to a permanent regional funding source for transit in the three county area.

Regional Telecommunications Study

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission staff assigned to conduct the regional telecommunications study has been drawn into related area-wide telecommunications efforts. In one case, Mr. Evenson continued, the Commission staff is assisting a consortium of local governments led by the City of Milwaukee in structuring a WiMax demonstration project for inclusion in a forthcoming Federal grant application. As another example, the Commission staff is being asked by the Southeastern Wisconsin Communications Resource/Support Group to develop a computerized database that will display in public safety vehicles, telecommunications connectivity information attendant to all public safety agencies within the Region. Mr. Evenson commented that while these efforts are useful and helpful, and while the Commission is being responsive to requests for assistance from its constituent members, progress on the

broader regional telecommunications planning study will inevitably be slowed given the small complement of technical staff available to work on these efforts.

Smart Growth

Mr. Evenson reported that the Smart Growth partnership planning efforts in both Ozaukee and Washington Counties will now continue, given an announcement by the Wisconsin Secretary of Administration that all grant awards made prior to recent actions by the State Legislature to end the State Grant Program and the Smart Growth Planning Law will be honored. This affects Waukesha County as well where County staff is taking the lead and the Commission is providing support. The three remaining partnerships in Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties are on hold pending completion of the forthcoming State Biennial Budget legislation.

County Surveyor Initiative

Mr. Evenson reported that both Ozaukee and Walworth Counties had taken initial committee actions to approve the Joint County Surveyor Initiative. He said he also expected that Initiative to be reflected in forthcoming Executive budgets for Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha Counties, with implementation in Kenosha County delayed to perhaps mid-2006. The initial reaction in Washington County has been to set the proposal aside in favor of continuing the present course of action. It was the consensus of the Committee that not all seven counties in the Region would have to agree to the Initiative for that Initiative to move forward.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that there was no correspondence or announcements to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments