

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

February 15, 2006

1:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
David L. Stroik, Vice-Chairman
Kenneth C. Herro
Gregory L. Holden
Lee Holloway
Kenneth F. Miller

Anthony F. Balestrieri
Robert A. Brooks
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael J. Miklasevich
James E. Moyer
Anselmo Villarreal
Paul G. Vrakas

Absent:

Leon T. Dreger
Leonard R. Johnson

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
William J. Stauber
Robert P. Biebel
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Chief Land Use Planner
Special Projects Engineer
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Balestrieri, Brooks, Buestrin, Miklasevich, Moyer, Villarreal, and Vrakas had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2005

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2005, were approved as published.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Sussex

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Sussex. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated March 2006 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that this amendment had been requested by the Village of Sussex and the Town of Lisbon at an intergovernmental meeting on January 10, 2006. The Sussex and environs sewer service area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 84, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Sussex, Waukesha County, Wisconsin*, dated September 1994. The purpose of the amendment would be to include within the planned Sussex sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber directed the Committee's attention to Map 1, noting that the proposed amendment involves the addition of two areas, identified as Area A and Area B on Map 1, to the sewer service area. Area A is proposed to be added by the Village of Sussex. It encompasses a total of 40 acres; no environmentally significant lands have been identified. It is envisioned that the area would be developed as a 39-lot single-family subdivision, accommodating an estimated population of about 100 persons.

Mr. Stauber indicated that Area B is proposed to be added by the Town of Lisbon. It encompasses 18 acres, including 2 acres of wetlands. The area would be served by a force main that is being installed in conjunction with the reconstruction of STH 164 in this area. It is envisioned that Area B would be developed for commercial use.

Mr. Stauber noted that together the addition of Areas A and B would increase the overall area of the sewer service area by 58 acres, or less than 1 percent. The population of the sewer service area would not be significantly affected.

Mr. Stauber noted that this matter was the subject of a public hearing held on February 14, 2006. Two individuals appeared at the hearing in opposition to the service area expansion proposals even though such proposals were consistent with locally adopted land use plans. The Town of Lisbon engineer addressed all of the objections. Following the hearing, the Sussex Village Board approved the subject amendment. Mr. Stauber commented that other service area changes likely will be submitted later this year as part of a more comprehensive amendment to the Sussex sewer service area plan. Both the Village of Sussex and the Town of Lisbon, he said, want to bring the sewer service area plan into conformance with the local land use plans and with a boundary agreement reached between the two neighboring municipalities.

Mr. Stauber indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with the regional land use plan.

In a discussion that followed Mr. Stauber's presentation, Mr. Holloway inquired as to the location of the discharge of treated waste from the Sussex treatment facility. In response, Mr. Evenson indicated that like about 60 municipal sewage treatment plants serving southeastern Wisconsin, the Sussex plant discharges to the surface water drainage system, in this case to Spring Creek, which in turn discharges to the Fox River. Only one of the municipal sewage treatment plants in the Region, he said, discharges treated wastewater to the groundwater system. That treatment plant serves the City of Lake Geneva in Walworth County.

There being no further questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Herro, seconded by Mr. Holden, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2006 concerning this matter was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

Sewer Service Area Plan for the City of Mequon

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the City of Mequon. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated March 2006 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that by letter dated November 21, 2005, the City of Mequon requested that the Commission amend the City of Mequon sanitary sewer service area tributary to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). That area is currently documented in a SEWRPC report entitled, *Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan-2000, City of Mequon*, dated June 2005. The purpose of the amendment would be to include within the planned Mequon sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber indicated that the proposed amendment involves the addition of two areas to the sewer service area, as shown on Map 1 of the memorandum report. The westerly area encompasses 70 acres including 6 acres of wetlands. The developable portion of this area is proposed to be developed for residential use, accommodating 62 housing units with an estimated potential population of about 150 persons.

Mr. Stauber indicated that the northerly area encompasses about 25 acres, of which 7 acres are identified as primary environmental corridor. The environmental corridor reflects a restoration plan for the site that will result in the reversion of farmed floodplains and certain adjacent open lands to more natural conditions. The subject site is part of the Columbia St. Mary's hospital property. It is envisioned that the developable portion of the subject site would accommodate expansion of hospital campus facilities.

Mr. Stauber noted that together the two proposed additions would increase the area of the sewer service area by 95 acres, or less than 1 percent. The population of the sewer service area would not be significantly affected.

Mr. Stauber noted that this matter was the subject of a public hearing held on February 14, 2006. No opposition to the proposed changes was expressed at that hearing. Following the hearing, the Mequon City Council approved the subject amendment. Mr. Stauber added that the staff of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District had reviewed the proposed sewer service area amendment and had concluded that the proposed additions would be allowable by District as consistent with its currently adopted facilities plan.

Mr. Stauber indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with the regional land use plan.

Following a brief discussion relative to the areal extent of public sanitary sewer and water supply systems in the City of Mequon, on a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2006 concerning this matter was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Mukwonago

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Mukwonago. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated March 2006 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that by letter dated December 1, 2005, the Village of Mukwonago requested that the Commission amend the Mukwonago sanitary sewer service area. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 191, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Mukwonago, Waukesha County, Wisconsin*, dated November 1990. The purpose of the amendment would be to include within the planned Mukwonago sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber directed the Committee's attention to Map 1, indicating that the proposed amendment involves the addition of a total of about 252 acres to the east side of the Mukwonago sewer service area. The subject area is located, for the most part, in the Town of Vernon; a small portion is located in the Village of Mukwonago. The subject area encompasses 54 acres of environmentally significant lands, consisting of primary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and small wetlands. Existing development within the subject site includes a par-three golf course, limited commercial development, a nursery operation, a church, a small apartment complex, and several single-family homes. The Village of Mukwonago has prepared a long-range development/redevelopment plan for the area. That plan calls primarily for residential and limited commercial uses. The proposed residential development would accommodate about 190 housing units, with an estimated population of about 450 persons, under full development conditions.

Mr. Stauber noted that this matter was the subject of a public hearing held on February 7, 2006. There were no objections to the proposed amendment at the hearing. Following the hearing, the Mukwonago Village Board approved the subject amendment.

Mr. Stauber indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with the regional land use plan.

In a brief discussion which followed, Mr. Herro suggested that the Commission staff compile a five-year history of amendments to each community's sewer service area plan and perhaps analyze the changes in terms of the growth amounts and patterns assumed in the regional land use plan. Mr. Stauber said that the staff would pursue Mr. Herro's suggestion and report back to the Committee on its findings. Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Herro, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2006 concerning this matter was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 52, A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, CHAPTER 5

Chairman Schmidt noted that the Committee continues to review materials being developed to document the forthcoming regional water supply plan. He then called upon Mr. Robert P. Biebel of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee material included in Chapter 5, "Water Supply System Development Objectives and Standards," of the forthcoming planning report. Mr. Biebel then delivered a presentation attendant to that chapter. A copy of Mr. Biebel's presentation slides is attached as Exhibit A.

A brief discussion followed Mr. Biebel's presentation. Mr. Holloway said that he would be opposed to any true diversions of Lake Michigan water beyond the Subcontinental Divide that traverses the Region. He noted that communities like Milwaukee along the Lake Michigan shoreline have suffered through periods of both high water and low water on Lake Michigan, and that we must be careful not to do anything to exacerbate those types of problems. In response to a comment by Mr. Herro, Mr. Biebel indicated that the regional water supply planning effort is intended to deal with future land use development, with the resulting plan to perhaps determine areas which -- for water supply sustainability reasons alone -- should not be subject to extensive urban development. Mr. Evenson noted that the results of water supply planning efforts may buttress the Commission's longstanding land use development recommendations for defining rural development at no more than one dwelling unit per five acres. In response to a question by Mr. Holloway on how communities now totally reliant upon the deep sandstone aquifer could reduce such reliance, Mr. Biebel said that one way is to blend water from the shallow aquifer with the deep aquifer. In response to a follow up question by Mr. Holloway relative to declines in the elevation of water in the deep sandstone aquifer, Mr. Herro suggested that perhaps the Commission staff's slideshow on historic trends in the deep aquifer should be reviewed at the next meeting. In response to another question by Mr. Holloway, Mr. Biebel indicated that the City of Chicago continues to sell drinking water to suburban municipalities on the western side of the Subcontinental Divide. This is possible because Chicago enjoys a longstanding legal commitment that allows it to divert two billion gallons of water a day from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River drainage basin. That commitment was originally made for the purpose of keeping Chicago's treated sewage out of Lake Michigan and flushing it down canals to the Illinois River. Increasingly, however, less and less of the permitted diversion is used for flushing and more and more is used for water supply.

At the end of the discussion, on a motion by Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Herro, and carried unanimously, Chapter 5, "Water Supply System Development Objectives and Standards" of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52 was approved for publication.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reminded the Commissioners that the third annual "Clean Rivers-Clean Lakes" conference co-sponsored with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District was scheduled for March 2, 2006, at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend and will receive a complimentary registration.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be June 7, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission offices.

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(Planning and Research Committee)
February 15, 2006

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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