

**MINUTES**

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, July 26, 2007

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman  
James T. Dwyer  
Adelene Greene  
Michael J. Miklasevich  
Allen L. Morrison (Alternate)  
Daniel S. Schmidt  
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman  
Richard A. Hansen  
David L. Stroik

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson  
Loretta Watson  
John G. McDougall  
Michael G. Gosetti

Executive Director  
Executive Secretary  
Geographic Information Systems Manager  
Geographic Information Systems Supervisor

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Drew, Hansen, and Stroik had asked to be excused. Mr. Buestrin noted that he had asked Mr. Morrison to attend the meeting as an alternate member of the Committee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2007, MEETING**

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on June 28, 2007, were approved as published.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MS. GREENE REPORTING**

(Meeting of July 26, 2007)

Ms. Greene 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 2007 Nos. 13, and 14, extending over the period June 11 to July 8, 2007.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending July 8, 2007. With about one-half of the year completed, the projections continue to indicate a year end surplus of about \$235,000, although much of that surplus represents Federal and State transportation planning funds that, if not expended, would need to be returned to the Federal and State agencies concerned.
3. Accepted proposals by the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company and the Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Company to provide comprehensive business insurance coverage to the Commission for the year beginning July 28, 2007. The combined quotations of \$46,257 represented a decline of about \$8,000 from the current premium, that decline due in part to more favorable experience in the workers compensation claim area. The Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Company will underwrite liabilities attendant to the actions of public officials and employment practices, with the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company underwriting all other areas.
4. Continued to review the Commission Personnel Regulations, focusing on major employee benefits, which included holidays, annual leave, sick leave, and health, disability and life insurance. Based upon that review, the Committee determined that the package of major employee benefits currently provided by the Commission is in line with other employers in both the public and private sectors. Accordingly, no significant changes are being proposed. Relatively modest changes to clarify the language of these sections of the Regulations pertaining to these benefits were approved. The Committee will spend the remainder of 2007 reviewing all other aspects of the Commission's Personnel Regulations.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Morrison, 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 two contracts reported on the table, noting that the first relates to providing additional compensation to the University of Wisconsin-Extension for services in connection with the regional water supply study, while the second involves an updating effort to the Little Muskego Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Miklasevich, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the report relative to the contracts was accepted and placed on file (copy of report attached to Official Minutes).

#### **REPORT ON THE DEMISE OF THE STATE-SPONSORED FEDERAL GRANT AND LOAN REVIEW PROGRAM**

Mr. Evenson reported that the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration has formally notified the United States Office of Management and Budget that Wisconsin no longer desires to review Federal grants and/or loans in the manner governed by Executive Order 12372. In discussions with State staff, it became evident that there was little support from around the State for continuing this review process. Accordingly, the State determined that it would no longer invest resources in it. Consequently, he

said, the Commission would no longer receive copies of Federal grant and loan applications nor be required to notify affected county and local governments of such applications and solicit their input.

### **CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2007-2010 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Evenson noted that the Committee members had been provided in advance of the meeting copies of Resolution No. 2007-13 which, if approved, would amend the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. He asked that the Committee consider Resolution 2007-13, attached to which are exhibits attendant to a total of six transportation projects, two of which were submitted by Ozaukee County, and four of which were submitted by Washington County. The projects all deal with transit services sponsored by those two Counties and are consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan. The projects have been approved by the Commission's Advisory Committee for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area which deals with transportation improvement programming issues.

Following a brief discussion relative to the desirability of jointly providing transit services in portions of the Region, it was moved by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution 2007-13 (copy attached to Official Minutes).

### **WORK PROGRAM REPORTS**

Mr. Evenson recalled that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors had asked the Commission to prepare, on an independent basis and without contact by Walworth County officials and staff, a redistricting plan that would create 11 supervisory districts. This downsizing of the Walworth County Board from its current level of 25 supervisors was mandated by the electorate of Walworth County during the spring 2007 election. He noted that the Commission staff had undertaken this work effort and had presented a proposed redistricting plan to the Walworth County Board on the evening of July 10, 2007. Noting that copies of the plan document had been provided to all Committee members, Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the proposed plan.

Mr. Evenson then asked that John McDougall and Michael Gosetti of the Commission's Geographic Information Systems staff demonstrate the software used in carrying out this work task. The software is made available by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., of Redland, CA, and is used by a technician, once an appropriate population database is established, to select and arrange areas in a digital map file to create districts.

During a brief ensuing discussion, Mr. Morrison commented that he had been involved in a redistricting process in Walworth County following the 1980 U.S. Census of Population, and that the software being used today greatly reduces the time necessary to prepare potential redistricting maps. Mr. Dwyer commented that while proposed Supervisory District 2 comes closest to meeting the population target, it is also quite large in area, encompassing almost four U.S. public land survey townships. In response to a question by Mr. Buestrin relative to why proposed Supervisory District 4 is so small in areal extent, Mr. McDougall indicated that there were several University of Wisconsin-Whitewater dormitories in that area resulting in a dense population. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greene, Mr. McDougall indicated that the jail population does factor into the resident population of the County. In response to an additional question by Ms. Greene, Mr. McDougall indicated that all-told, the Commission staff spent perhaps three-person weeks on the project.

Mr. Evenson reported that he had received a letter from the Walworth County Administrator, David K Bretl, thanking the Commission for the work that had been done. Mr. Dwyer noted that election district

work is a task that should be undertaken by objective, independent agencies and individuals, rather than elected officials. He indicated that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Wisconsin Counties Association, who perhaps would be willing to highlight the Commission's work in its magazine once the plan has been formally approved by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dwyer also indicated that, from his personal perspective, Wisconsin law attendant to inter-census redistricting proposals should be amended to require that a map of the proposed districts be put forward as part of the referendum. This, he said, would give voters a much better understanding of what it is they are being asked to approve or disapprove.

Mr. Evenson also reported that while work on the regional water supply planning program continues to move along, the scope and breadth of the work entailed, together with the need to coordinate the schedule of consulting team members, makes it likely that the new plan will not be completed before spring 2008. The Planning and Research Committee, he said, will continue to review planning report chapters as they are completed by the Commission's Advisory Committee guiding this import work effort.

Mr. Evenson also reported that the first meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force has been scheduled for August 7, 2007. Commissioner Greene will Chair that Task Force and, at the end of its two-year life, will help determine whether or not the effort should be continued.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Evenson reported that Governor Jim Doyle has signed an order creating the Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission, a one-county planning commission serving all of Dane County. The order encompasses a governance structure for the new regional planning commission as specified in an agreement reached between Dane County, the City of Madison, and associations of towns and incorporated municipalities in Dane County.

Mr. Evenson also reported that the Dane County Executive and the Mayor of the City of Madison have jointly proposed the creation of a Dane County Regional Transit Authority. Under the proposal, the Authority would be empowered to levy a 0.5 percent sales tax to fund transportation projects. That new sales tax would raise about \$43 million annually. The proposal would spend one-third on commuter rail service, one-fourth on bus services, one-fourth of the total revenue on town and village roads, and the remaining 17 percent on other rail service.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Miklasevich, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson  
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments