

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 20, 2008

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
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman
William R. Drew

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Kenneth R. Yunker
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Drew and Hansen had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2008, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on October 23, 2008, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING

(Meeting of November 20, 2008)

Mr. Stroik 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 2008 Nos. 22 and 23 extending over the period October 13, 2008, to November 9, 2008.

2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending November 9, 2008. With about 85 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$70,000, exclusive of income from interest and miscellaneous sales.
3. Received a report on employee enrollment in the 2009 group medical insurance program. A total of 58 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage, paying at a minimum 20 percent of the premium cost. Seven Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The adopted 2009 budget of about \$742,000 for medical insurance premiums will be adequate.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, 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 one contract prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the contract reported on the table, noting that it nearly fulfills the commitment of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide Federal and State funds in support of the 2008 water quality management program. The Commission staff still hopes that the remaining \$5,799 from the expected budget amount will be forthcoming.

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

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that efforts continue to educate county and local elected officials and the general public on the tentative recommendations made in the draft regional water supply system plan. To date, he said, those plan recommendations have been presented to the Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Coordinating Council, the Waukesha County Coordinating Council, the staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the membership of the Racine County Smart Growth Coordinating Committee which includes representatives of all local governments in the County. Briefings on those recommendations are scheduled for next week to the Walworth County Intergovernmental Corporation Council and the Kenosha County Smart Growth Coordinating Committee. Briefings are in the process of being scheduled for the Mid-Moraine Association serving incorporated communities in Ozaukee and Washington Counties in January, as well as the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors also in January. A series of public informational meetings is now being scheduled throughout the month of January and into early February, with a total of ten such meetings to be held. Those informational meetings will include solicitation of public comment on the tentative recommendations. Comments are also being solicited on the Commission's website. The Commission newsletter summarizing the plan recommendations will be available shortly.

A brief discussion followed. Commissioners Dwyer and Miklasevich indicated that their respective county boards of supervisors would be available for briefing sessions in the near future. Mr. Evenson said that he would have Mr. Robert Biebel of the Commission staff contact those Commissioners to make such arrangements.

Mr. Evenson also reported that the Commission and Washington County staffs have concluded work on the updated Washington County Jurisdictional Highway System plan. That plan includes relatively minor adjustments to Commission's regional transportation plan with respect to the arterial street and highway

system. The Washington County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this plan update at their meeting on December 9, 2008. Assuming that the County Board completes its action on this matter, the updated jurisdictional highway plan will be ready for Commission endorsement during the first quarter of 2009.

Mr. Evenson also recalled that at the October Executive Committee meeting he and Commissioner Greene had briefed the Committee on the recommendation of the Environmental Justice Task Force that the Commission, using an independent contractor, prepare a socio-economic impact statement relative to all new regional plan elements, beginning with the forthcoming regional water supply system plan. He indicated that he intended to report to the EJTF next week on the expected impacts of the water supply plan recommendations relative to the adopted regional land use plan. He recalled that in the regional land use plan, the Commission had indicated that it would hold open the possibility to amend that plan upon completion of the regional water supply plan should it be determined in the latter effort that the development pattern reflected in the regional land use plan could not be sustained. From a technical perspective, he said, the Commission staff has now closed that feedback loop and has concluded that the development pattern reflected in the regional land use plan can be sustained without any extraordinary efforts relative to the provision of water supply. While the preliminary regional water supply plan does recommend that Lake Michigan be used as a source of supply for several of water supply utilities now being served by groundwater supply, such recommendations should not be taken to mean that there are not adequate groundwater supplies available to serve those utilities. Rather, he said, it means that Lake Michigan is a superior source of water supply for those utilities and if negotiations can be successfully completed to provide Lake Michigan water to those utilities, the result would be a better overall system of public water supply in the Region.

Moreover, Mr. Evenson continued, analyses conducted under the regional water supply planning program relative to preservation of the areas providing the best groundwater recharge in the Region have re-enforced the Commission regional land use plan recommendations to preserve and protect the environmental corridors in the Region. If counties and local communities implement Commission recommendations attendant to the regional land use plan, over 80 percent of those areas of the Region found to have the very best recharge potential will have been protected and preserved.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dwyer relative to the adequacy of the shallow aquifer to supply water in lieu of reliance on the deep aquifer, Mr. Yunker indicated that greater reliance on the shallow aquifer will not result in the same kind of "mining" of that aquifer as has occurred in the deep aquifer which is overlain by an impermeable shale layer. What the study has shown, Mr. Yunker continued, is that greater reliance on the shallow aquifer for public water supply will reduce somewhat the amount of groundwater that moves and adds to the base flows of rivers and streams. In response to another question by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Evenson indicated that Commission staff will work with the EJTF to try to articulate the socio-economic impacts that need to be addressed. Commission staff, he said, will not ask the Commission for money to fund additional work unless it is clear what such a work effort would be intended to address. In response to a question by Ms. Greene, Mr. Evenson said that the Commission staff would build into the scope of the regional housing study an appropriate element dealing with socio-economic impacts. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Ms. Greene indicated one member of the Housing Study Advisory Committee is a sociologist on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson recalled that at the October Executive Committee meeting he had reported about activities underway in the City and County of Milwaukee relative to concerns about the Commission's governance structure, including a Resolution then being considered by the Milwaukee Common Council and a report

then being considered by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. He then distributed to Committee members three documents, including a copy of a Resolution unanimously adopted by the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee; a letter sent by Lee Holloway, the Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, to the Commission relative to the Common Council's Resolution; and a copy of the report now adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors setting forth findings and recommendations relative to the relationship between Milwaukee County and the Regional Planning Commission. He noted that the Milwaukee County report had been prepared under the direction of Milwaukee County Supervisor John Weishan who is presently attending Commission meetings as Milwaukee County's representative pending his formal appointment to the Commission by the Governor to replace Mr. Holloway (copies attached to Official Minutes). He then reviewed each of these documents with the Committee members.

Following an ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the Commission staff should provide copies of these materials to all Commissioners at the forthcoming Commission meeting scheduled for December 3rd, and that this matter should be referred at that time to the Commission's Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee for discussion early in 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments