

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION**

January 25, 2012

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ERHARD HUETTL, CHAIR
BETTYE NALL, VICE-CHAIR
GEORGE BORNEMANN,
SEC.-TRES.
BOB EGAN
VIRGINIA HEINEMANN
DONALD KRAHN
GLEN LICITAR
ROBERT LUSSOW
MAURICE MATHEWS
CRAIG McEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
JERRY NELSON
RON NYE
WILBUR PETROSKEY
THOMAS RUDOLPH
PAUL SCHUMAN
RALPH SITZBERGER
EDMUND WAFLE
DOUG WILLIAMS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

FRED CAMACHO
RON JACOBSON
JIMMY LANDRU, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

MICHAEL AGNEW
DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
BERNIE LEWIS

GUESTS PRESENT:

BRYCE LUCHTERHAND, Area
Representative for Senator Kohl

1.) CALL TO ORDER:

MR. HUETTL called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M., in the Birch Room at the Best Western Midway Hotel & Hoffman House. The meeting room was changed from the room indicated on the Agenda due to a scheduling conflict at Best Western. A sign was posted showing the room change. Roll call was as presented on page one.

2.) AUDIENCE COMMENT:

MR. HUETTL welcomed Mr. Luchterhand, Area Representative for Senator Kohl, and asked if he had any comments he would like to make. Mr. Luchterhand stated that Senator Kohl would be happy to hear of any concerns from his constituents. He announced that Senator Kohl and Senator Grassley are pursuing the Physician Payments Sunshine Act as a means of mandating transparency by drug companies about their contacts with physicians that was included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Mr. Luchterhand also announced that individuals 60 years of age or older will still receive hard copy statements regarding their social security. Individuals under the age of 60 will need to get their information on-line. MR. HUETTL requested Mr. Luchterhand to have the Senator look at the concerns many have regarding the need for more timber cutting in the National Forest.

3.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA AS MAILED:

MR. HUETTL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Agenda as mailed. There being none, a motion was made by MR. WILLIAMS to approve the Agenda as mailed, and MR. PETROSKEY seconded this motion. All were in favor.

4.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2011 COMMISSION MEETING:

MR HUETTL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes as mailed. It was brought up that under section 5.4 of the Minutes part of a sentence was missing, and under section 5.5 duplicate words need to be removed. MR. RUDOLPH made a motion

to approve the Minutes with the corrections, and MR. WAFLE seconded this motion. All were in favor.

5.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

5.1 Chairperson's Report:

MR. HUETTL announced that Jim Schuessler was hired to be the Director of the Forest County Economic Partnership that includes the two tribes, the City of Crandon, and Forest County. MR. HUETTL then welcomed VIRGINIA HEINEMANN who has been reappointed by the Governor to represent Marathon County as a Commissioner. He stated she was a long-time member and had served as Vice-Chair for many years.

5.2 Executive Committee's Report:

MS. NALL reported that the Executive Committee found the financial status of the Commission to be very good. She went on to say that the Commission had received notification that the DOT Work Program had been approved and that there was some discussion related to financial issues and staffing.

She then turned the meeting over to MR. LAWRENCE. MR. LAWRENCE stated that the Commission is negotiating with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, which was formally the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, to provide on-going economic development assistance within the region. Another area of discussion was related to the removal of RPC's levies from the County's levy limits, this stems from a recent Arbitration Case in Dane County. Finally he mentioned that the 2011 Audit was nearly complete and that it would be available for the next meeting.

5.3 2012 NCWRPC Work Program:

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the Work Program for 2012 which was provided. He announced that the RPC has more ability to add more projects for the year. Each of the primary work areas was highlighted:

- Economic Development – working with the regional entities of Centergy and Grow North; also a major project is the update of the CEDS.
- GIS – much of this work is support to other areas.
- IGOV – staffing NEWCOM and the Northeast Regional Coordinator efforts related to emergency management and communication.
- Land Use – working on a variety of all hazard plans.
- Transportation – working with a group of counties related to Freight Rail.

Mr. LAWRENCE informed the Committee of two projects that are shown in the Work Program that may not occur. The first is the Forest County GIS Parcel project which is funded by state funds from the real estate recording fees. Because of the recent lapse of state funds those funds may not be available. The other project is in Lincoln County. Last year Lincoln County requested the NCWRPC prepare an application for a County-wide Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The no match grant was received, but now the County Highway Committee has decided not to proceed with the project. Both projects will result in a financial hit to the organization.

MR. RUDOLPH requested that that Wisconsin Mineral Resource Association become active again due to mining issues arising in several counties. It was suggested that a letter be written to each county board chair regarding this issue and then a meeting date be set up to discuss recent mining issues. MR. HUETTL and MR. LAWRENCE will move forward to reactivate the Wisconsin Mineral Resource program.

MR. BORNEMANN made a motion to approve the 2012 Work Program, and MR. SITZBERGER seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.4 Establishment and Appointment of CEDS Committee:

MR. LAWRENCE indicated that it was necessary to appoint Commissioners to volunteer to review the CEDS document and strategy. He stated that EDA is requiring this to be done every five years. The following Commissioners volunteered to be on the CEDS Committee:

GEORGE BORNEMANN, BOB EGAN, DONALD KRAHN, CRAIG McEWEN, PAUL MILLAN, GERALD NELSON, RON NYE, THOMAS RUDOLPH, and DOUG WILLIAMS.

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the Committee would only meet once, most likely sometime in March.

5.5 Presentation: NCWRPC Freight Rail Activities:

MR. LANDEAU reported that the Commission has recently become involved in working with the newly formed Northwood's Rail Coalition to address loss of rail service in northern Wisconsin, which resulted from the sale of Wisconsin Central to Canadian National.

To date, the NCWRPC has staffed regular coalition meetings, identification of potential customers, developed model resolutions, bylaws and an intergovernmental agreement for creation of the rail commission. The primary effort is the establishment of a rail transit commission. Currently there are nine Wisconsin Counties and four Upper Michigan Counties that are involved. Transit Commissions are created under state statutes, and are intended to provide for the continuation of branch line rail service. A short line operator would be identified as part of this process as it moves forward, that process is just beginning. Additional information will be provided as this project moves forward.

5.6 Presentation: Future Funding Opportunities:

MR. AGNEW stated that he has worked in comprehensive planning, and with those funds eliminated at the state level, he was assigned the task to identify other funding sources that could support RPC activities, prioritize them, and seek funding for the organization.

In Land Use there are a number of recurring plans that are updated at regular intervals, such as outdoor recreation plans. In the field of Natural Resources, lake and river planning, and invasive species eradication continue to be done and offer some possibility for contract work, as well as runoff stormwater management, especially with the pending new standard for suspended solids in water. ATV trail planning is an area where

funding is available for design and development, however, these projects are sometimes controversial. In the general classification of sustainability, Health Impact Assessments and Food Security studies are increasing in prominence, and although funding for these projects on the federal level is extremely competitive, these fields should continue to expand. Energy is another area where grant funding has diminished at the state level, but where it may be available in the future. The Joyce Foundation (environment & energy) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (health) work in Wisconsin, and offer a possible source of funding for projects related to their areas of focus. The recently completed Mosinee Downtown Development Plan is a model for projects that might be pursued. Finally, development of a trail-related website, based on a similar project being planned in Michigan, was discussed and offers examples of how webpage functions could be adapted to northern Wisconsin. At the next meeting he will provide an update on the various grants submitted and other efforts to secure funding.

5.7 Commissioner Comments/Other:

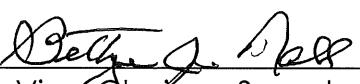
MR. LAWRENCE announced that the next Commission Meeting will be held on April 25, 2012. He stated that there will be elections held for all officers at that meeting.

6.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. HUETTL asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. MR. RUDOLPH made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. MS. NALL seconded this motion. All were in favor. Lunch was served following the meeting.

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes Approved on 4-25-2012



Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary-Treasurer