

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

July 31, 2013

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BETTYE NALL, ACTING CHAIR
GEORGE BORNEMANN, SEC.-TRES.
RICHARD BAKOVKA
BOB EGAN
THOMAS HAFERMAN
VIRGINIA HEINEMANN
GLENN LICITAR
CRAIG McEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
RON NYE
JERRY NELSON
THOMAS RUDOLPH
FRANK SAAL, Jr.
PAUL SCHUMAN
RALPH SITZBERGER
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

JIMMY LANDRU, Jr.
ROBERT LUSSOW
EDMUND WAFLE

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FAUST
FRED HEIDER
DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
BERNIE LEWIS

GUESTS PRESENT:

ARNO HAERING, former NCWRPC
Executive Director

BEN NIFFENEGGER, Wisconsin Valley
Improvement

PETER HANSEN, PE, Wisconsin Valley
Improvement

NATHAN SCHWANZ, Congressman
Duffy's Office, Outreach Director

KATRINA SHANKLAND, 71st ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

JIM WARSAW, CWED Loan Fund
Administrator - McDevco

WILLIAM ZEITZ, Chairperson, Town of
Pine River in Lincoln Co.

JEAN ROGERS, former NCWRPC
Commissioner

JUDY HAERING, Spouse of Arno
Haering

BETTY LICITAR, Spouse of Glenn
Licitar

1.) CALL TO ORDER:

MR. LAWRENCE welcomed everyone to NCWRPC's 40th Anniversary meeting. He stated that it was a bittersweet moment because of the recent passing of Erhard Huettl, the NCWRPC's longtime chair and last founding member. BETTYE NALL, Vice-Chair, will act as Chair for this meeting.

MS. NALL called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M., at the Greenwood Hills Country Club. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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

MS. Nall asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Agenda as mailed. There being none MR. MILLAN made a motion to approve the Agenda and MR. RUDOLPH seconded this motion. All were in favor.

3.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2013 COMMISSION MEETING:

MS. NALL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes as mailed. There being no additions or correction MR. BORNEMANN made a motion to approve the April 24, 2013 Minutes, and MS. HEINEMANN seconded this motion. All were in favor.

4.) AUDIENCE COMMENT:

MS. NALL asked if there were any comments from the audience. There were none.

5.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

5.1 Acting Chairperson's Report:

MS. NALL welcomed everyone to the 40th Anniversary meeting of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. She then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for MR. HUETTL.

There was some discussion about the process to elect the chairperson. MR. LAWRENCE stated that according to bylaws the Vice-Chair fills that position until an election is held. At the next

meeting (in October) an election will be held to fill out the term which expires April 2014.

MS. HEINEMANN asked about the process to fill the Chairperson position and suggested a nominating committee. After some discussion, MR. SITZBERGER suggested a process where any Commissioner interested in serving as Chairperson directly contact members of the Executive Committee or the Executive Director to indicate their interest for the position. MR. WILLIAMS made a motion to approve the process of directly contacting Executive Committee members or the Executive Director if interested in the Chairperson position, MR. SITZBERGER seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.2 Staffing Update:

MR. LAWRENCE provided an overview of the process to fill the Community and Economic Development Senior Planner position. He reminded the group that at the end of the year we had a resignation. Following that the position description was reviewed and modified by the Executive Committee. The position was advertised and 18 resumes were received. This was narrowed to four candidates that were interviewed in person by our Interview Committee. Following reference checks the top two candidates then participated in a telephone interview with staff.

As a result of that process, Coleman Peiffer was selected and will begin on August 19, 2013. He has several years of related experience and master's degrees in both urban planning and public administration.

5.3 Livability Plan & CEDS Update:

MR. LAWRENCE reminded the group that at the last meeting volunteers were asked for these two committees. Staff has been working to collect the background materials and information to prepare the initial draft reports. Meetings would be held in the next couple of months for both.

MR. LAWRENCE then stated that the Livability Committee will meet sometime in late September. The Commissioners who volunteered to serve on this committee are: GLENN LICITAR, Adams County, PAUL MILLAN, Forest County, ED WAFLE, Juneau

County; RON NYE, Langlade County; ROBERT LUSSOW, Lincoln County; BETTYE NALL, Marathon County; TOM RUDOLPH, Oneida County; RALPH SITZBERGER, Vilas County; and TOM HAFERMAN, Wood County.

He stated that the CEDS Committee will meet sometime in October. The Commissioners that volunteered to be on this committee are: RICHARD BAKOVKA, Adams County; PAUL MILLAN, Forest County; KEN WINTERS, Juneau County; RON NYE, Langlade County; DOUG WILLIAMS, Lincoln County; CRAIG MCEWEN, Marathon County; TOM RUDOLPH, Oneida County; BOB EGAN, Vilas County; and TOM HAFERMAN, Wood County.

5.4 DNR Brownfield Partnership Participation:

MR. LAWRENCE provided an update on the DNR-RPC EPA Partnership Brownfield Program grant application submitted early in the year. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$600,000. This is the third grant received by the partnership from EPA to be used for Brownfield Site assessment and evaluation. The DNR administers the program throughout the state.

The grant provides funding for communities to conduct Phase I and Phase II assessments on properties that may have contamination. This provides some of the basic information needed to redevelop these sites. To date, the previous grants have been used to conduct site assessments. In our region there have been projects in Eagle River, Mauston, Merrill, and Stevens Point.

5.5 Establish 2014 Levy Rate and Cap Level:

MR. LAWRENCE explained that by State Statute regional planning commissions need to set their Levy Rate by August 1st. That rate or membership charge is then applied to Real Estate values to determine the charge to members for the following year. He said that the Real Estate value information has not been released, but is expected to be down slightly. With that said, he recommended that the 2014 Levy Rate be set not to exceed 0.0001% for 2014, which is a rate freeze. This would likely decrease the charge to each member for 2014.

He then discussed the Levy Cap, which sets the limit for any one member to not exceed. Three county members are at this limit. These are Marathon, Oneida and Vilas. The 2013 rate was set at \$46,000, but with expected decreases in real estate value, the cap was recommended to be decreased to \$45,500.

MR. WILLIAMS made a motion to approve the Levy Rate at 0.0001% and to set the Levy Cap at \$45,500. MR. SITZBERGER seconded this motion. All were in favor.

5.6 Celebrating 40 Years – A Look Back and a Look Forward:

MR. LAWRENCE introduced special guest, MR. ARNO HAERING, who was the first Executive Director for NCWRPC serving from 1974 until 1997.

MR. HAERING provided some comments on the early years of the NCWRPC. He stated that NCWRPC was the last RPC created in the State of Wisconsin. He said that the first NCWRPC office was located in Stevens Point, and in 1976 moved to Wausau. MR. HAERING said the goal was to get counties and communities to work together. Following his remarks, the group gave him a round of applause.

MR. LAWRENCE began with an overview of four decades of change. The population in our region has increased by 36% while employment increased by 60%. Next he reviewed the growth of the organization over the last four decades. The first annual budget was only \$15,000 compared to our \$700,000 budget today. He then reviewed the many changes since he became director in 1997. During that time the tax levy rate charge to members has decreased 60% and membership is at the highest rate since the creation of NCWRPC.

He then highlighted organizational accomplishments, such as mainlining designation as an Economic District by the Economic Development Administration, obtaining Rural Transportation Planning Organization status from WisDOT, and the creation of the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation, which manages loans to various businesses. All told, to date these businesses have created over 400 jobs in our region.

He also stated that NCWRPC was the first RPC to adopt a Regional Comprehensive Plan in the State. MR. LAWRENCE then discussed some challenges, such as tight budgets and communication within our region.

A brief report entitled "Celebrating 40 Years!" was also distributed, which overviews the first four decades of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

5.7 Presentation: "Stewards of the Wisconsin River" (Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company):

MR. LAWRENCE state that this presentation was selected because the Wisconsin River is the major link in our region. The Wisconsin River has its headwaters in Vilas County and touches with its tributaries every county in our region. It is also known as the hardest working river in the state. With that he introduced BEN NIFFENEGGER, Environmental Specialist, and PETER HANSEN, PE, Manager of Operations with the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company.

MR. NIFFENEGGER provided a history of WVIC. He stated that WVIC operated from 1830-1880 mainly to assist during the log driving season as loggers made logs on the rivers. He stated that the Hydropower operation was established after the 1880's and today there are 25 hydroelectric dams on the river.

MR. PETER HANSEN said that WVIC works to control water levels in the system. They provide operation cycles for summer and fall, and to control water in the spring. He said that their operating plans have four components, to maximize and minimize water levels, control the flow goals, balance indexes, and monitor the precipitation amounts. A map showing the Wisconsin River Headwaters Reservoir System was handed out. Following the presentation several questions were asked and answered.

5.8 Announcements:

MR. LAWRENCE announced that the next Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2013.

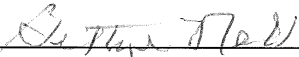
6.) ADJOURNMENT:

MS. NALL asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM. MR. RUDOLPH made the motion, seconded by MR. NYE, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Lunch and cake was provided following the meeting.

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes Approved on 10-31-13.


Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary-Treasurer