

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION
September 27, 2006**

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MARILYN BHEND
GEORGE BORNEMANN
FRED CAMACHO
ROBERT CURRAN
ROBERT HAYWARD
ERHARD HUETTL
RON JACOBSON
DONALD KLINE
DONALD KRAHN
BEVERLY LONG
MAURICE MATHEWS
HELM MEHUS
PAUL MILLAN
BETTYE NALL
SUSAN NOBLE
RON NYE
WILBUR PETROSKEY
THOMAS RICK
THOMAS RUDOLPH
DOUG WILLIAMS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

BRAD KARGER
CURTIS POWELL
HERB RIECKMANN

STAFF PRESENT:

DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
BERNIE LEWIS

GUESTS PRESENT:

MARJORIE BUNCE, Representative for
Senator Herb Kohl
CYNTHIA THOMAS, Brownfield
Outreach Specialist
DANIELLE WINCENTSEN,
Brownfield Outreach Specialist

1.) CALL TO ORDER:

MR. HUETTTL called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M., in the Bayberry Room at the Midway Hotel & Hoffman House Restaurant. Roll call was as presented on page one.

2.) AUDIENCE COMMENT:

MR. HUETTTL asked if there were any comments from the audience. Marge Bunce said that she brought handouts from Senator Kohl's office that included a mail reply form to contact Senator Kohl on various issues, Bills to watch in congress, and various program announcements Senator Kohl worked on and got passed.

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

MR. HUETTTL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Agenda as mailed. There being none, a motion was made by MS. NALL and seconded by MR. MILLAN to approve the Agenda as mailed. All were in favor.

4.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2006 COMMISSION MEETING:

MR HUETTTL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes as mailed. MR. PETROWSKEY made a motion to approve the Minutes and MR. KRAHN seconded this motion. MR. RUDOLPH stated that there was an error in the Minutes relating to the Levy amount to be collected in 2007. The amount of \$191,000 was omitted for the amount to be received. MR. RUDOLPH moved to accept the Minutes as Amended, and MS. NALL seconded this motion. All were in favor.

5.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

5.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

MR. HUETTTL welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed two new Commissioners. Marilyn Bhend is replacing Virginia Heinemann for Marathon County, and Ron Jacobson is replacing Wilbur Fritz for Adams County. MR. HUETTTL asked them to give a briefly introduce themselves. MS. BHEND stated that she is the Clerk for the Town of Johnson, Director of the Wisconsin Towns Association, and the serves on the Marathon County Resource Committee. She also served on the Wisconsin Legislative Council-Special Committee on Election Law Review. MR. JACOBSON stated that he currently works for Central Wisconsin Engineers, and also serves on the Board of Adjustment Committee for Adams County.

5.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

MR. HUETTL reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed several items, including staff salaries. He stated that the committee reviewed the current financial report and found the NCWRPC continues to be in good financial standing. The Committee reviewed the upcoming budget and recommends its adoption. He also stated the Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions will have its annual meeting in Madison next month, and that organization will be hosting a series of economic development sessions in early 2007.

5.3 STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

MS. LONG reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met on August 30, 2006, and reviewed the general planning timeline process on the work they have accomplished to date. The next step will be to conduct an assessment of members and non-members over the winter months and then develop a Strategic Plan and forward it to the Commission in mid-spring. MS. LONG announced that Dan Hill, a UW-Extension specialist from Madison will be available to aid the Strategic Planning Committee develop a process to complete the task.

5.4 DNR BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM UPDATE:

MR. LAWRENCE introduced Cynthia Thomas and Danielle Wincentzen, both Brownfield Outreach Specialist from the DNR office to update the Commission on Brownfield sites. They explained what brownfields are, and what can be done with these sites to help make them municipality attractive to new residents and businesses to aid in increasing the local tax bases. Ms. Thomas explained that there was a Brownfield Site Assessment Grant available to help local governments conduct initial activities and investigations at environmentally contaminated property. She said that the deadline for this application is November 1, 2006, and after March 31, 2007, there will be additional grant money available.

5.5 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON:

MR. HUETTL indicated that it was necessary to hold an election for the Vice-Chairperson position previously by Virginia Heinemann. He asked for nominations from the floor. MR. PETROSKEY nominated MS. BETTYE NALL to be Vice-Chairperson.

No other nominations were made so MR. COMACHO made a motion to approve the nomination of MS. NALL, and MR. KLINE seconded this motion. All voted in favor on MS. NALL becoming Vice-Chairperson.

5.6 ADAMS & MARATHON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

MR. LAWRENCE stated that both Adams and Marathon Counties needed to select a Commissioner to serve on the Executive Committee. Now that MS. NALL was elected as Vice-Chairperson, she would serve on the Executive Committee for Marathon County. Therefore, only Adams County needed to select which one of the three will represent their county on the Executive Committee. MR. HUETTL asked that the county decide and inform the Executive Director prior to the next meeting date.

5.7 RESOLUTION 2006-4: ADOPTION OF 2007 BUDGET:

MR. LAWRENCE highlighted various sections of the proposed 2007 Budget. Total Revenues for 2007 are expected to be \$709,648, with Total Expenses at \$696,473, leaving a fund balance of \$13,175.

He then reviewed revenues in detail. Levy collections will decline by 6 percent, due to the decrease in the levy rate. Continuing grants are maintained at the regular level. However, the budget shows an \$8,000 decrease in the EDA grant, but those were a one-time additional add on for the district. Project revenues account for over 53 percent of the revenues, or about \$377,000. However, there is \$65,000 in reserve funds added, in case some of the pending projects are not secured. Usually those pending and some additional projects will be added. Revenues are expected to be up about 6 percent over last year.

Next he reviewed expenditures in detail. Direct costs, which is made up of salaries, are the major expense item at over 49 percent of expenses. Fringe costs are the next most, making up over 30 percent of expenditures. Overhead costs remain pretty stable at about 20 percent of total expenditures. Expenditures are expected to be up about 6 percent over last year.

MR. WILLIAMS made a motion to approve the 2007 Budget and MR. KLINE seconded. Motion carried.

5.8 NORTHERN WISCONSIN RAIL STUDY UPDATE:

MR. LANDEAU provided an update on the Northern Wisconsin Rail Study that was recently completed. He stated that the class 1 railroad's business model calls for larger freight volumes and longer transport distances. The volumes and distances involved with serving central and northern Wisconsin often do not meet the required return on investment of these larger railroads. The State DOT is aware of the issues and is looking at ways to deal with them. After questions and discussion, everyone agreed that this was an important issue for the continued growth and development of the Region's communities.

MS. LONG suggested that staff monitor this issue and become more involved. All were supportive of that suggestion regarding freight rail service in our Region.

5.9 REFERRALS REVIEW:

MR. LANDEAU reviewed the three referrals received totaling \$671,922. One referral was for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for a preliminary environmental assessment for construction of a GA terminal and parallel taxiways in Lincoln County. No dollar amount was listed. The second referral was a multi-county application from the Ministry Health Care to centralize fetal monitoring and WAN upgrade totaling \$546,922. The third referral was from the Good Earth Farms in Wood County for working capital for market expansion of a Wisconsin-raised organic meat product totaling \$125,000.

MS. NALL made a motion to approve the referrals reviewed, and MR. KRAHN seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.10 OTHER:

MR. HUETTL asked if there was any other business or comments to be made. There were none.

6.) ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by MR. RUDOLPH to adjourn the meeting 12:25 P.M., and MR. MILLAN seconded this motion. All were in favor. A buffet lunch was served immediately following the meeting.

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes Approved on February 28, 2007

Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary-Treasurer