

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION  
Minutes & Public Hearing Comments**

January 28, 2015

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**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RICHARD BAKOVKA  
BOB EGAN  
ROCKY GILNER  
HARLAND LEE  
CRAIG McEWEN  
JERRY NELSON  
JERRY NILES  
RON NYE  
THOMAS RUDOLPH  
FRANK SAAL, Jr.  
PAUL SCHUMAN  
KENNETH WINTERS  
EDMUND WAFLE

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDY FAUST  
DENNIS LAWRENCE  
COLEMAN PEIFFER

GUESTS PRESENT:

KEITH LANGENHAN, Field Services  
Representative for Wisconsin  
Counties Association  
  
CAROLYN RITTER, Vilas County  
Supervisor

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

GEORGE BORNEMANN  
BUCKY DAILEY  
THOMAS HAFERMAN  
VIRGINIA HEINEMANN  
JIMMY LANDRU, Jr.  
ROBERT LUSSOW  
PAUL MILLAN  
BETTYE NALL  
KIM SIMAC  
DOUG WILLIAMS

1.) CALL TO ORDER:

MR. RUDOLPH called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Both the chair and vice-chair were unable to attend.

2.) AUDIENCE COMMENT:

MR. RUDOLPH asked if there were any comments from the guests present. Keith Langenhahn stated he was glad to attend and would save his comments for his presentation. Carolyn Ritter stated she was there for the public hearing portion of the meeting.

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

MR. RUDOLPH asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as mailed. There being none, MR. WAFLE made a motion to approve the agenda as mailed, seconded by MR. Schuman. Motion carried.

4.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2014 COMMISSION MEETING:

MR. RUDOLPH asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as mailed. There being none MR. LEE made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, and MR. EAGAN seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

5.1 Chairperson's Report

MR. RUDOLPH stated that he did not have a report, but was happy to see everyone.

5.2 Executive Committee's Report

MR. RUDOLPH reported that the Executive Committee discussed a variety of items. First was the Executive Director's report that

covered a variety of items. The EDA site visit was discussed, a regional bike grant was secured and the phone system is having some issues and may need to be replaced in the future. The financial report was presented and that was in good shape. There was a review of current commission vacancies by county. Next the Employee Handbook was updated to include part-time employee benefits, and the membership policy was reviewed.

### 5.3 Regional Livability Plan (RLP) Steering Committee Report

MR. WAFLE overviewed the work of the committee over the last two years to develop the RLP report. He mentioned that the committee had representation from each of the ten counties, and numerous state and local organizations were involved in the process to get a good cross-section of the region. He stated that the committee was pleased with the Assessment Reports and the Regional Livability Plan.

### 5.4 Regional Livability Plan Presentation

MR. PEIFFER provided a summary of the Regional Livability Plan (RLP). He started by reviewing the four Assessment Reports that were prepared as the foundation of the RLP. These focused on Housing, Economic Development, Transportation and Land Use. Next he discussed the RLP that examines numerous regional trends, from population changes to labor force to broadband. The RLP identifies ways to address the region's opportunities and weaknesses increasing the regions ability to become more livable for all residents. These issues are examined in detail for the entire region as well as the three sub-sectors of the region. Eleven overall goals were developed to as part of this effort, based in part on the US DOT Six Livability Principles. In addition, several objectives and policies are identified to address these trends.

The RLP identifies a variety of recommendations toward making the region and local communities more livable. The goal is to have residents be able to live near their place of employment, to help reduce travel costs, transportation maintenance, pollution, and congestion. The successful implementation of this plan will save tax dollars, create more housing options, provide more transportation choices, increase economic development,

accommodate an aging population, retain and attract a knowledgeable workforce, improve community health, protect the regions rural character, and enhance the region's scenic beauty.

MR. LAWRENCE stated that once the final comments are received on the RLP that it will be sent for final formatting and printing. Drafts are available on the NCWRPC website. Adoption will occur in April.

Several Commissioners voiced agreement with many of the issues identified in the RLP, including labor shortage and relocation of younger people.

#### 5.5 Public Hearing Item – Comments on the RLP

MR. RUDOLPH opened the public hearing and asked for comments from the public. Carolyn Ritter, representing Vilas County, stated that she was there to hear more about the RLP. Overall, she said there is a lot of good information in the report that would be useful to the county. She asked if the RLP needed to be adopted by the county or other local units of government.

MR. LAWRENCE stated that RLP is an advisory document and was prepared as a framework for local communities. Therefore each community can take what they like and incorporate it into their local plans.

Many Commissioners stated that they were pleased with the RLP and thanked staff for their efforts. No other comments were made related to the plan. The public hearing portion of the meeting was closed.

#### 5.6 Review & Adopt 2015 Work Plan

MR. LAWRENCE briefly reviewed the 2015 Work Plan presented and identified the projects that the NCWRPC have been requested to complete. He overviewed the Work Program which lists nearly 60 projects and nearly a dozen pending projects for 2015. Projects are categorized by the Program areas of Economic Development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use, and Transportation.

He added that this will be a very busy year, but encouraged Commissioners to let him know if there was something needed in their communities.

MR. WAFFLE made a motion to approve the 2015 Work Program, and MR. SAAL, Jr. seconded this motion. All were in favor.

5.7 Presentation: 2015 State Legislative Session – What to Expect

Wisconsin Counties Association's field representative Keith Langenhahn, presented on a variety of current topics related to state government. He reviewed the change in the new state legislature, provided a state budget preview, examined the state tax structure, and discussed attitudes toward government.

5.8 Announcements:

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next meeting would be April 29, 2015 and held at the same location.

6.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. EGAN made a motion to adjourn the meeting, MR. NELSON seconded this motion. All were in favor.

Lunch was provided following the meeting.

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The meeting was advertised and open to the public. The meeting was held at the Wausau Entrepreneurial & Education Center, Wausau.

Minutes Approved on April 29, 2015:

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