

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT

LORETTA BAUGHAN
TED CUSHING
ROCKY GILNER
DAVID LAFONTAINE
BETTY MANSON
PAUL MILLAN
RON NYE

STAFF PRESENT

DENNIS LAWRENCE

MEMBERS EXCUSED

AL HAGA, JR.
CRAIG MCEWEN
JAY VERHULST

OTHERS PRESENT

JERRY NELSON

1.) ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M., and the roll call was as presented.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2023, MEETING.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. CUSHING, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3.) DISCUSSION/BUSINESS

3.1 Executive Director's Report

MR. LAWRENCE provided an update on the office copier that was authorized at the last meeting. It is installed and came in under budget. He next mentioned some items from the state budget and shared revenue programs that might have some benefit to local communities, including housing, transportation, and the innovation fund for consolidation of services.

He then reviewed Commissioner status. He stated there were two Governor appointments that expired in June - one is Ken Winters from Juneau County and the other for Daniel Guild from Marathon County. Neither are seeking reappointment. In January, Jay Verhulst's term expired. He represents Vilas County and we are unsure if he will continue or if they will appoint a new person. Hans Breitenmoser in Lincoln County was reappointed as a Joint appointment. There is also a long vacant Joint appointment in Vilas County.

3.2 Current Financial Report

MR. LAWRENCE distributed copies of the current financial report. The report identifies about \$2,165,000 in cash and deposits, and about \$255,000 in outstanding receivables, for a total of \$2,420,175. Payables total about \$59,000, which leaves a current financial position of \$2,361,575. At the previous meeting, the financial position was \$2,036,129. He mentioned that some funds would be reallocated to other accounts or banks to maximize interest rates. The financial position continues to be strong.

On the motion of MS. BAUGHAN, second by MR. GILNER the financial report was accepted and placed on file. All were in favor.

3.3 Programs, Grants & Agreements Update

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the report in the meeting packet. First, he discussed the two EDA programs underway for the region. He stated

that the 3-Year Planning Partnership grant was awarded. He also mentioned the SPRINT Challenge grant is ending soon and because of staff vacancy issues and other sub-awardee changes some of the grant may go unspent.

Next, he mentioned that an EDA grant for Lac du Flambeau Tribe was moving toward approval for \$2 Million and staff were also finalizing an EDA grant for Northcentral Technical College, Antigo Center of Wood Technology for \$500,000.

He then mentioned some local agreements that have been signed and started, including four county broadband plans and an outdoor recreation plan. Finally, he mentioned that funds are being secured under the partnership agreement for the statewide air photo effort the NCWRPC manages. To date, \$300,000 of the anticipated \$850,000 has been secured.

3.4 AWRPC Annual Meeting Update

MR. MILLAN stated that it was a good event. It was at the redeveloped Grand Avenue Mall, now called the Avenue. SEWRPC was our host RPC and they provided a tour and some presentations on Milwaukee's redevelopment efforts. MR. LAWRENCE stated that the AWRPC annual budget was approved, and annual dues remained the same. There were also presentations from the Department of Administration, Economic Development Administration and Department of Natural Resources as well. Officer roles also changed and Southwestern Wisconsin RPC will be the host RPC for the next year's meeting.

3.5 Authorization to purchase new Office Vehicle

MR. LAWRENCE asked the committee to refer to the handout. He stated that the RPC currently has two Ford Escapes, one is low miles and in good condition, the other is old and in need of replacement. Using the state purchasing contract EWALD Automotive Group provided a quote for a vehicle. Once ordered it takes about 2 to 4 months to arrive.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. CUSHING, authorization to purchase a new office vehicle at a price not to exceed \$25,000. All were in favor.

3.6 Preview 2024 Budget Recommendation for Levy & Cap

MR. LAWRENCE provided a brief overview of the budget process and the anticipated 2024 budget. The recommendation to fund member assistance was to set the "not to exceed" rate at last year's actual rate of 0.000635% and set the Cap Rate at \$41,000. These actions would collect approximately \$290,000, which will cover the anticipated costs for

member program assistance in 2024. There was some discussion related to the rate and maintaining it at a higher level to offset any unforeseen costs in the future. Over the years, the goal has been to provide some reduction for members to help lessen the burden on county budgets. The cap is in place because of the vast differences in county valuations, ranging from 1 billion to over 13 billion.

On a motion by MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. CUSHING, a recommendation was made to set the Levy Rate at "not to exceed" 0.000635% and set the Levy Cap at \$41,000. Motion passed, with one dissenting vote.

3.7 Closed Session – Staff Salaries & Compensation

A motion was made by MR. NYE, seconded by MR. CUSHING, for the Committee to go into Closed Session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85. All were in favor by a roll call vote.

3.8 Reconvene into Open Session

The Executive Committee reconvened into open session on a motion by MR. NYE, second by MR. CUSHING. All were in favor.

On a motion by MR. CUSHING, second by MR. GILNER, staff salaries were approved as recommended. Motion passed.

3.9 Announcements

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 25, 2023. It will be at our regular location at the Wausau Business & Entrepreneur Center.

4.) ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

The meeting was advertised and open to the public.

Minutes Approved on October 25, 2023

