

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

January 31, 2024

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
HANS BREITENMOSER
WILLIAM CHANEY
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING
ROCKY GILNER
DAVE LAFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
DOUGLAS MACHON
BETTY MANSON
CRAIG MCEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
RONALD NYE
DAVID OBERBECK
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
STEVEN SCHREIER
HOLLY TOMLANOVICH
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

CINDY GRETZINGER
JASON GRUENBERG
ALLEN HAGA
ROBERT HANSON
RICK PEASE
JOHN PAVELSKI
EUGENE SIMON

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FAUST
FRED HEIDER
DAWN JOHNSON
DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER

OTHERS PRESENT:

DYLAN BROWN, BUSINESS
NAVIGATOR, UW INSTITUTE FOR
BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LANDIS HOLDORF – DISTRICT
DIRECTOR, US CONGRESSMAN TOM
TIFFANY

KEITH LANGENHAHN – WISCONSIN
COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

SCOTT SOIK, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE,
CONGRESSMAN VAN ORDEN

GREGG WAVRUNEK – REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE, US SENATOR
TAMMY BALDWIN

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE 10-25-23 MEETING:

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

3.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

3.1 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

MR. MILLIAN welcomed everyone to the Wausau Entrepreneurial & Education Center.

3.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

MS. BAUGHAN provided an overview of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier in the day. She stated that the annual audit will take place in February with the report to be presented at April's meeting. There were several programs, grants, and agreements to update including climate pollution, resiliency plans, the bipartisan infrastructure law for small municipalities to fund roadwork, and the Innovation grant to assist communities in the consolidation of ambulance and fire services. The Central Wisconsin River Watershed Basin Plan proposal to better protect our water resources was approved.

3.3 STATE & FEDERAL UPDATES

MR. HOLDORF discussed that the House of Representatives has been in session. CONGRESSMAN TIFFANY has had 6 listening sessions where discussions have mainly been pertaining to immigration. A letter to the US District Attorney to continue benefits to veterans. Working with local municipalities on refugee resettlement. The move toward impeaching Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, for refusal to enforce immigration laws. Childcare tax credit to those who have a social security number.

MR. SOIK introduced himself as a field representative for CONGRESSMAN VAN ORDEN, covering the southern area of the NCWRPC region including portions of Wood, Portage, Juneau, and Adams counties. He encouraged those who are in the 3rd Congressional District to reach out for any assistance needed.

MR. WAVRUNEK discussed SENATOR BALDWIN'S involvement in the prevention of a government shutdown. Supplement funding for Ukraine and Israel to secure their borders. Support of a bipartisan bill regarding training for 1st responders to combat the opium and fentanyl crisis. Assistance in securing funds for the UW System in the research into wildfires that have impacted our area. Encouraging the Biden administration to approve federal funding for the Wisconsin Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.

MR. LANGENHAHN discussed the Wisconsin Counties Association will have its Legislative Exchange on February 6-7, 2024, at the Madison Concourse Hotel. County organizational meetings will take place at the end of April.

3.4 2023 WORK ACTIVITIES & 2024 WORK PREVIEW

Staff recapped various work activities completed in 2023 for the five basic work program areas of Economic Development, GIS, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use, and Transportation. Some of the economic development projects highlighted were the Main Street Bounceback Program, EDA Grant Assistance, CREATE Your Community EDA Sprint grant, Regional Entrepreneurship Assessment, North Central WI Entrepreneurship Portal, Juneau County Housing Plan, CEDS Annual Performance report, County Economic Profiles and Quarterly County & Regional Economic Reports. GIS projects highlighted were project mapping, broadband planning, local GIS support, and 911 assistance. Intergovernmental projects highlighted were various organizational support, the new website, and various communication efforts. Land Use highlights include comprehensive plans for Forest, Portage, and Vilas Counties, outdoor recreation plans, all hazard mitigation plans, among others. Finally, some transportation highlights included bike planning, county transit plans, pavement rating assistance, and corridor studies.

Staff also previewed the 2024 work program which includes over 65 projects highlighting Housing efforts in Wood and Adams County, EDA Grant Assistance to Mid-State Technical College, UW-Stevens Point, and others. GIS support and broadband planning as well as comprehensive planning for various municipalities, corridor planning, and Urban Boundaries assistance.

3.5 ADOPTION OF 2024 NCWRPC WORK PROGRAM

MR. LAWRENCE recommended the adoption of the 2024 work program. MR. CUSHING made a motion to adopt, seconded by MR. LAFONTAINE. Motion carried.

3.6 REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS AND COMMITTEE FORMATION

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the regional planning commissions are required to have a regional comprehensive plan for the regions they serve. These plans need to be updated every ten years. To oversee the development of the plan a committee needs to be established. Once formed the committee will have a meeting to establish a timeline and other tasks. The goal is to have the plan presented for adoption in October 2025.

MR. NYE made a motion to approve the formation of the committee, seconded by MR. BALCERZAK. Motion passed. Mr. MILLAN asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. These were MR. CUSHING, MR. MACHON, MR. MILLAN, MS. MASON, MS. BAUGHAN.

3.7 CEDS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

MR. SONNELEITNER highlighted the 2024 CEDS Annual Performance Report. He stated that every five years we update the full CEDS document, while in off years we prepare the Annual Performance Report. The report includes a variety of demographic information, a listing of projects completed as well as regional goals, objectives, and work tasks. He reviewed some of the demographic information as well as projects for next year.

3.8 RESOLUTION 2023-1: ADOPTION OF CEDS

MR. NYE made a motion to approve the adoption of the CEDS, seconded by MR. LAFONTAINE. Motion passed.

3.9 PRESENTATION: UW INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP, DYLAN BROWN, BUSINESS NAVIGATOR

MR. BROWN presented phase 2 of the Main Street Bounceback program which consists of additional funding and support through training and technical assistance for grant recipients. Assistance includes marketing clinics, on-demand training videos, professional consulting services, and collaborative outreach through a direct campaign approach.

3.10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

MR. MILLAN announced that the next meeting would take place on April 24, 2024.

MR. WINTERS announced the Citizens Water Group of Wood County would be having a panel presentation and discussion on The Future of Clean Drinking Water in the Central Sands on March 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the McMillan Library. All were invited to attend.

4.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. MILLAN adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

The meeting was advertised and open to the public. The meeting was held at the Wausau Entrepreneurial & Education Center, 100 N. 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI.

Minutes Approved on April 24, 2024:
