

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

October 25, 2023

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
HANS BREITENMOSER
WILLIAM CHANEY
TED CUSHING
ROCKY GILNER
CINDY GRETZINGER
JASON GRUENEBERG
DAVE LAFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
BETTY MANSON
PAUL MILLAN
RONALD NYE
DAVID OBERBECK
RICK PEASE
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
STEVEN SCHREIER
EUGENE SIMON
HOLLY TOMLANOVICH
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

ANGELA CLOSE
JAMI GEBERT
ALLEN HAGA
ROBERT HANSON
DOUGLAS MACHON
CRAIG MCEWEN
JOHN PAVELSKI

STAFF PRESENT:

DAWN JOHNSON
DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER
SAM WESSEL

OTHERS PRESENT:

LANDIS HOLDORF – DISTRICT
DIRECTOR, US CONGRESSMAN TOM
TIFFANY

KEITH LANGENHAHN – WISCONSIN
COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

GREGG WAVRUNEK – REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE, US SENATOR
TAMMY BALDWIN

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. New commissioners MS. TOMLANOVICH from Vilas County and MR. SIMON from Lincoln County introduced themselves. MR. MILLAN asked for a moment of silence for MR. NILES, Juneau County Commissioner, who passed away on September 19, 2023.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE 7-26-23 MEETING:

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

3.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

3.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

MS. BAUGHAN provided an overview of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier in the day. She stated there was a delay in receiving the new vehicle due to the UAW strike. Cyber security is a concern, with the recent breaches in some of the counties. A consultation has been scheduled to address any concerns and recommendations for the current system.

3.2 STATE & FEDERAL UPDATES

MR. WAVRUNEK stated that Wisconsin received a regional technology hub designation from the federal government. The support of the Ban Congressional Stock Trading Act, will require all members of Congress, their spouses, and dependent children to place their stocks into a blind trust or divest the holding. The Brokaw Act, proposed legislation that will increase transparency and strengthen oversight of predatory hedge funds. The Childcare Stabilization Act will ensure that the most vulnerable families across the country can continue to access critical childcare services without interruption. Protecting Future Farmland Act, new legislation to support farmers' land stewardship efforts as many choose to deploy solar energy on their land. Bipartisan Continuation Funding to pass responsible funding of government.

MR. HOLDORF discussed that the House of Representatives has not been in session for several weeks due to the vacancy of the House Speaker and it is likely that a new Speaker would be chosen today. When back in session Congressman Tiffany, will introduce the GAZA Act, the legislation would prevent President Biden's administration from issuing visas to those with Palestinian Authority passports.

MR. LANGENHAHN discussed the county bill that would reduce the administrative fees from 1.75% to .75%. He encouraged attendees to contact their elected representatives to support the reduction of fees.

3.3 RESOLUTION 2023-3: ADOPT TITLE VI POLICY

MR. LANDEAU discussed the regulations required to ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency. As part of that effort, information needs to be available in both Hmong and Spanish.

MS. GRETZINGER made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MR. BREITENMOSER. Motion passed.

3.4 RESOLUTION 2023-4: ADOPT 2024 DOT WORK PROGRAM

MR. LANDEAU provided an overview of the transportation work program for next year. The program consists of 5 elements, regionwide transportation planning, regional transportation data center, local transportation technical assistance, intergovernmental coordination, and program administration. He identified a variety of projects already planned.

MR. GRUENEBERG made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MR. LEE. Motion passed.

3.5 RESOLUTION 2023-5: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT TAP GRANT

MR. LANDEAU discussed the transportation alternative program award pertaining to the regional Safe Routes to School program. This is the third phase of a program that assists in making walking and bicycling to school safer for children and reduces traffic congestion near schools. The grant has a local match commitment of a 20% match.

MR. CHANEY made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MS. MANSON. Motion passed.

MR. SCHREIER made a motion to amend the resolution striking the phrase "To be determined" and replacing it with "not to exceed \$45,150". MR. CUSHING seconded the amendment. Amendment passed.

3.6 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

MR LAWRENCE provided an overview of the proposed 2024 budget. He started by stating that it was very similar to 2023. Total revenues are expected to be \$1,062,110. This is made up of 3 main revenue streams. The largest being project income, followed by levy, and program grants.

Expenditures are expected to be \$1,046,156, consisting of direct/salary costs, fringe costs, and overhead costs. A modest fund balance is expected. The budget may be adjusted over the year.

3.7 RESOLUTION 2023-6: ADOPT 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET

MR. LAFONTAINE made a motion to approve the 2024 annual budget, seconded by MR. BALCERZAK. Motion passed.

3.8 RESOLUTION 2023-7: RECOGNITION OF JAY VERHULST, VILAS COUNTY

MR. LAWRENCE stated that MR. VERHULST has been a strong advocate for Vilas County and the resolution would express the NCWRPC's sincere gratitude and appreciation for his service and contribution to the organization.

MS. TOMLANOVICH made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MR. SCHREIER. Motion passed.

3.9 PRESENTATION: REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDY & PORTAL

MR. SONNLEITNER and MR. WESSEL presented the Regional Entrepreneurial Assessment Report. The report was funded as part of an EDA SPRINT Challenge grant. The goal was to develop and scale innovation entrepreneurship support models throughout our ten-county Region. A survey of over 500 small businesses was part of this effort. They also discussed the NCWRP Entrepreneurial Portal which has been developed that contains a variety of resources for small business owners.

3.10 COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

MR. MILLAN stated that each year we set aside time on the agenda for an open discussion. He encouraged questions or comments.

MS. TOMLANOVICH started with a question about lodging and staffing needs in communities whose main economic developer is tourism. MR. GRUENEBERG and MR. SCHREIER shared some things happening in their counties related to short-term rentals. MR. GRUENEBERG also mentioned the state goal of zero percent emissions by 2050 and what information or guidance is at the regional level to help locating solar utilities. MR. OBERBECK mentioned the effort Marathon County is making related to tax incremental financing.

3.11 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will take place on January 31, 2024.

4.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. MILLAN adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.

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 January 31, 2024:
