

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

April 26, 2023

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
WILLIAM CHANEY
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING
JAMI GEBERT
ROCKY GILNER
CINDY GRETZINGER
JASON GRUENEBERG
ALLEN HAGA JR
ROBERT HANSON
DAVE LAFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
DOUGLAS MACHON
CRAIG MCEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
JERRY NILES
RONALD NYE
RICK PEASE
JOHN PAVELSKI
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
STEVEN SCHREIER
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

HANS BREITENMOSER
DANIEL GUILD
BETTY MANSON
DAVID OBERBECK
EUGENE SIMON
JAY VERHULST

STAFF PRESENT:

DAWN JOHNSON
DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER

OTHERS PRESENT:

TOM BARON – WISCONSIN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
REPRESENTATIVE, EDA

BILL CLENDENNING – SUPERVISOR,
WOOD COUNTY

LANDIS HOLDORF – DISTRICT
DIRECTOR, US CONGRESSMAN TOM
TIFFANY

LEAH LASECKI – CPA, PRINCIPAL,
CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN

LIBBY OGARD – PRESIDENT, PRIME
FOCUS LLC

RICHARD STEWART – RETIRED, UW-
SUPERIOR TRANSPORTATION
CENTER

GREGG WAVRUNEK – REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE, US SENATOR
TAMMY BALDWIN

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. There were no new introductions to make.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE 11-26-23 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, second by MR. BALCERZAK. Motion carried.

3.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

3.1 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

MR. MILLAN welcomed everyone and introduced representatives from both US Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Tom Tiffany as well as MS. LASECKI from Clifton Larson and Allen.

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 Main Street Bounceback Grant was closed at the end of the year. A total of 560 grants were awarded in all ten of the counties and a follow-up survey will be issued. A new planner has been hired with a start date of June 12th. The purchase of a new copy machine has been approved.

3.3 STATE & FEDERAL UPDATES

MR. WAVRUNEK discussed the Veteran's package – CVSO bill, which will expand community-based outreach that will help veterans access services to improve their health and wellness and prevent suicides. Flight Education Access Act of 2023 aligns federal funding support for the education and flight training required to become an airline pilot with that of other highly skilled professions. Bruce's Law seeks to facilitate government cooperation and public awareness about the danger of fentanyl, while allocating additional funding to community organization and coalitions. The Senate passed a fire and safety grant to allocate funding to local fire departments. SENATOR BALDWIN also continues efforts with the affordability of prescription drugs, year-round sale of ethanol to lower fuel prices, and Broadband funding.

MR. LANDIS discussed H.R.1 – Lower Energy Costs Act, which provides for the exploration, development, importation, and exportation of energy resources. Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, this bill generally prohibits school athletic programs from allowing individuals whose biological sex at birth was male to participate in programs that are for women and girls. H.R.2640, to provide for reform of the asylum system and protection of the border. H.R.2452 OMAR Act, an amendment to the Federal Election Campaign act of 1971 to prohibit certain political committees from compensating the spouse of the candidate for services provided to or on behalf of the committee, to require such committees to report on payments made to the spouse and the immediate family members of the candidate. REPRESENTATIVE TIFFANY’S office also assisted 200 constituents who sought to have issues with federal agencies resolved.

3.4 2022 ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW & DISCUSSION

MR. LAWRENCE provided a summary of the draft annual report. The report summarizes the activities of the organization over the past year. It also includes goals and highlights regional and county accomplishments for 2022. A motion was made by MR. HANSON to approve the report and distribute when printed, seconded by MR. NYE. Motion carried.

3.5 2022 ANNUAL AUDIT REVIEW

MS. LASECKI provided a high-level overview of the independent auditor’s report. In the governance letter, she discussed the change in the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 87 regarding long-term lease agreements, not previously recognized in the financial statements. Due to this change in standards, there is no comparative on this year’s financial statements. A total year end net position of \$1,796,560. The Statement of Revenues and Expenses held a positive operating income of \$218,830. Statement of Cash Flows recognizing cash and investments at year end of \$2,524,291. Fiduciary Funds held a net position of \$517,469.

It was the opinion of CLA that the NCWRPC is in a strong financial position and that the audit was clean. MR CUSHING made a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Audit, seconded by MR NYE. Motion carried.

3.6 PRESENTATION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) UPDATE

MR BARON provided an overview of the EDA. The agency’s mission is to lead economic development by promoting innovation & competitiveness to prepare America’s regions for growth and success. Wisconsin is located in EDA’s Chicago region. Overall, the agency receives \$1.6 billion for various grant programs. The two primary programs are Public Works and Economic Adjustment. Eligibility is

determined by high unemployment and per capita income. He also highlighted several projects funded in the region.

3.7 PRESENTATION – REGIONAL FREIGHT RAIL STUDY

MS. OGARD AND MR. STEWART discussed the Intermodal Demand Assessment. The purpose of the report is to identify the potential demand for intermodal service in the Wisconsin/Minnesota (WIMN) region. Railroad intermodal service hubs in Minneapolis and Chicago have predominately provided terminal access to the North American Intermodal Network. Many of these terminals are at capacity and are severely congested. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) has appointed an advisory committee to explore the challenges of developing a competitive intermodal facility within the state. This research has identified 18 potential sites in Wisconsin which could support this transportation facility. This study will be completed over the summer.

3.8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

MR. MILLAN announced that the next commission meeting would be held on July 26th which will be the 50th Anniversary of the NCWRPC.

4.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. MILLAN adjourned the meeting at 12:35pm.

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

Minutes Approved on July 26, 2023:
