

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

July 26, 2023

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
HANS BREITENMOSER
WILLIAM CHANEY
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING
JAMI GEBERT
ROCKY GILNER
JASON GRUENEBERG
DAVE LAFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
DOUGLAS MACHON
BETTY MANSON
PAUL MILLAN
RONALD NYE
RICK PEASE
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

CINDY GRETZINGER
ALLEN HAGA
ROBERT HANSON
CRAIG MCEWEN
JERRY NILES
DAVID OBERBECK
JOHN PAVELSKI
STEVEN SCHREIER
EUGENE SIMON
JAY VERHULST

STAFF PRESENT:

CHRISTIAN BOULANGER
ANDY FAUST
FRED HEIDER
DAWN JOHNSON
DARRYL LANDEAU
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER
SAM WESSEL

OTHERS PRESENT:

BEN CLARK, MARATHON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LANDIS HOLDORF – DISTRICT
DIRECTOR, US CONGRESSMAN TOM
TIFFANY

KEITH LANGENHAHN – WISCONSIN
COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

JERRY NELSON – FORMER WOOD
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. NCWRPC staff and presenters were introduced.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE 4-26-23 MEETING:

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

3.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

3.1 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

MR. MILLAN welcomed everyone to the Hilton Garden Inn for the 50th celebration.

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 purchase of the copy machine came in under budget. There was some state budget discussion related to Housing and Transportation funding and the impact on our region. Some time was spent discussing shared revenue, and the related Innovation Fund for merging of ambulance and fire services. There was also authorization for the purchase of a new office vehicle and some salary adjustments. She announced the hiring of a new planner, MR. BOULANGER and welcomed him.

3.3 STATE & FEDERAL UPDATES

MR. HOLDORF discussed the Access Rural America Act, to streamline the process for internet providers regarding FCC regulations to provide broadband to rural communities. The Milk Act regarding offering flavored milk under the school lunch program. The Credit Card Competition Act amended the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to prescribe regulations relating to network competition in credit card transactions. The Responsible Borrowing Act amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize institutions of higher education to limit the amount of a Federal loan that an enrolled student may borrow. REPRESENTATIVE TIFFANY'S office has reached \$1 million in giving back to constituents for those who have sought to have issues with federal agencies resolved.

MR. LANGENHAHN provided a brief update on the state budget and discussed the upcoming Wisconsin Counties Association annual conference on September 17-19, 2023, at Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells and Monday Leadership calls.

3.4 RESOLUTION 2023-2: ESTABLISH 2024 LEVY RATE & CAP

MR. LAWRENCE explained that establishing the Levy rate was the first step in the annual budgeting process. Regional planning commissions, by state statute, are allowed to charge a levy of up to 0.003% of the equalized real estate value to each member government. NCWRPC rate has been well below one-third of that for many years.

Resolution 2023-2, recommended by the Executive Committee, would set the 2024 service charge at no more than 0.000635% of the equalized real estate value of each member government to support membership planning activities; and caps the service charge to any one county at \$41,000. A levy cap has been established so that no one member pays over a set level to even out the wide range of valuation among the ten counties.

MR. REINHARDT made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MR. CUSHING. Motion passed with MR. NYE voting no.

3.5 A BRIEF HISTORY OF NCWRPC

MR. LAWRENCE presented an overview of the booklet NCWRPC - Celebrating 50 Years! The report highlights some of the activities and accomplishments of the NCWRPC in its first five decades. The organization was created by Executive Order 58 on June 25, 1973, by Governor Lucey to provide both regional and local assistance for the counties along the upper Wisconsin River. He discussed the process to create the organization, changes in role and funding, as well as identifying previous chairpersons over the years. He also touched on some demographic changes in the region over the last fifty years. Over the years the NCWRPC has been involved in a variety of planning efforts, however, most relate to the five core programs of Economic Development, GIS & Mapping, Land Use, and Transportation.

3.6 WISCONSIN RIVER RECREATION TRAIL MAPPING ASSISTANCE UPDATE

MR FAUST provided an update on some current work related to the Wisconsin River. NCWRPC assisted the Wisconsin River Centennial Canoe Trail group map various trails and features along the river. The RPC has also provided mapping assistance to the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) which manages the Upper Wisconsin River system. Currently, the RPC is working with the Heritage

Trails group with mapping from Oneida County to Portage County. A variety of amenities near the river are identified that are important to canoeists and kayakers.

3.7 PRESENTATION – WISCONSIN RIVER’S LAST LOG DRIVE

MR. CLARK discussed the lumber industry, much of which would not have been possible without the waterpower of the Wisconsin River. It was the Wisconsin River that provided the only real means of moving people in and the valuable natural resources out in the years before roads or railroads stretched across the region to connect communities.

3.8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

MR. MILLAN announced that the next commission meeting would be held on October 25th at our normal location, the Wausau Entrepreneurial & Education Center. To commemorate the 50-year celebration coffee mugs were available to take with you.

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 Hilton Garden Inn, Wausau.

Minutes Approved on October 25, 2023:
