

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Open Space and Environmental Management Committee**  
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
ECWRPC's Offices  
July 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Jim Erdman, Vice Chair.....Winnebago County  
DuWayne Federwitz .....Waupaca County  
Paul Hirte .....Outagamie County

Committee Members Absent:

Alice Conners (excused).....Calumet County  
Jeremy Johnson (unexcused).....Menominee County

Staff Present:

Eric Fowle ..... Executive Director  
Tom Baron ..... Planner  
Scott Konkle.....Reclamation Mining Specialist  
Trish Nau ..... GIS Coordinator

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Fowle opened the meeting as nominations and selection of a new Committee Chair has yet to be done upon the retirement of Mr. Paltzer.

**2. Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 regarding Open Meetings**

Staff indicated that the meeting is in compliance and notice was sent to the media.

**3. Nomination and Selection of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**

A nomination for Mr. Erdman to become the new Chair was made by Commissioner Hirte and a seconded was offered by Commissioner Federwitz. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hirte made a nomination for Mr. Federwitz to become the new Vice-Chair, with a seconded by Mr. Erdman. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of July 12, 2011 Agenda and Motion to Deviate if need be**

A motion made by Commissioner Hirte and a second was offered by Commissioner Federwitz to approve the agenda. Motioned carried.

**5. Approval of April 12, 2011 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hirte, and a second was offered by Commissioner Federwitz, to grant approval of the April 12, 2011 Open Space and Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (SOP). The motion passed with a unanimous vote (3-0).

**6. There was no public present for comment.**

**Informational Reports & Updates:**

**7. a) Surface Water Issues:**

*i) 2011-13 West Winnebago Pool Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Grant Update -*

Mr. Fowle reported on Mr. Verboomen's behalf that the program is doing very well and fitting well with his work load. He is keeping on track and communicating well with the other Invasive Aquatic Species coordinators.

Mr. Erdman said that according to the weekly that Mr. Verboomen has been doing a good job on getting the word out to the public at the boat launches and commended him for his dedication.

**b) Ground Water Issues**

*i) WGNHA Groundwater Recharge Mapping Contract Status -*

Mr. Fowle informed the committee that Phase I is now complete with reports being written with possible different scenarios utilizing climate change possibly using the Town of Menasha as a test. Results should be available soon and will be provided as an outreach package sharing the data with county and local municipalities.

Mr. Fowle also reported that a Lake Michigan Academy no-match grant of about \$10,000 was secured to complete Phase II and develop an informational poster showing groundwater / stormwater management and practices used.

Phase II of the project will begin this fall using the new Soil/Water Balance Model and will encompass Menominee, Shawano, Waupaca, and Waushara counties and will focus on climate variations with impact to recharge. Data collection and compilations will begin soon and will use existing land use, soils data w/respective hydrological groupings, and assumptions for storm sewered areas, (usually directed toward surface waters thus removing this volume for potential infiltration and contamination issues).

**c) Park/Recreation/Tourism Issues/Plans**

*i) Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) / Great Arc Bike Route Map –*

Mr. Fowle handed out the new route map brochure and explained to the committee the success with the NERN project and that there was interactive map component through RidewithGPS to map your ride along the escarpment.

Mr. Fowle also explained that work is being done to develop the Greenway Plan for the escarpment working with BLRPC and NPS. We hosted public workshops in Brown, Calumet, and Fond du Lac counties with another one scheduled August 5<sup>th</sup> for Dodge County. Information is being gathered for the plan and hope to have a product that will help preserve the corridor and it's infrastructure in a "green" capacity. Mr. Fowle envisions having an end to end hiking trail through the corridor from Horicon Marsh up to Washington Island.

ii) City of Brillion's and Village of Gresham's Park/Recreation Plan Update, 2011 Park Plan Updates – Technical Assistance Projects.

Ms. Trish Nau reported that the City of Brillion's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) update is on track and will be meeting with the Parks and Plan Commission for input and preliminary recommendations on August 1, 2011.

The Village of Gresham is also on track as an initial inventory has been done with preliminary recommendations. The next step in the process will be to get committee and public input.

Ms. Nau also reported that Waushara County should begin their CORP update this fall with the selection of Committee members. The County's plan would more than likely get adopted sometime next year.

iii) *Update on Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Activities*

Mr. Tom Baron reported that the Action Plan will be complete once the FWHP board adds communication goals to the plan. The plan will be approved by the FWHP board shortly and will be a working document for the FWHP to follow in the future. Mr. Baron said that hard copies will be made available to each of the Open Space Committee members also for their review and approval scheduled for the October committee meeting.

The master planning process will be done by a consultant and RFP's were sent out to determine choice. So far, \$118,000 has been raised for the plan with \$150,000 needed for completion. The plan will include recommendations on present historical sites and how they can be made part to the parkway. Mr. Baron also reported that the FWHP are recruiting partners to help get the parkway noticed and provide extra funding.

iv) *CHIP program, ReThink Program - Winnebago County*

Mr. Baron reported that CHIP stands for Community Health Initiative Program and that he is on a committee to gather an inventory of all park and recreation facilities in Winnebago County and eventually for the region. He showed the committee a demo of the new ReTH!NK Winnebago website utilizing the inventory gathered through CHIP. Mr. Baron also handed out magnets to the committee members with the website information on them.

v) *Ice Age Trail Planning, Waushara County Trailway Protection Strategy (TPS)*

Ms. Nau reported that she has been in contact with the National Park Service (NPS) on the mapping updates and good progress is being made. She handed out draft copies of the maps

and explained that the Trailway Protection Strategy (TPS) document for Waushara County purpose is to look at protection areas and provide trail alternative routes. It will be a working document for the NPS to keep the Ice Age Trail planning on course. Mr. Federwitz asked if they are utilizing the full 40 acre plots for land acquisition. Ms. Nau explained that these are parcels that highlighted based off of the NPS criteria and only part of the land would be used for the trail if need be. It would be dependent on the property owner's decision to sell or split off or development of easements to promote the preferred route. Discussion continued on owner's and property rights issues in relation to trail development

**d) Other Open Space / Environmental Management Updates:**

*i) Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program Report*

Mr. Scott Konkle gave an update of the mining reclamation program and said he has been dealing with the DNR on current issues. He stated there are some sites that have "frac" sand that are being utilized for gas and oil well production and are being sold for a good price. Some sites are in Winnebago and Fond du Lac Counties. Discussion on the St. Peter's sandstone and the price per ton options continued and how the DNR is involved as well as site owners and how the communities would be affected. Mr. Konkle stated that more education and field training needs to be done.

*ii) Town of Greenville Land Stewardship Committee – Technical Assistance Project*

Mr. Fowle handed out a document outlining the Land Stewardship Goals and Strategy for the creation a stewardship program for the Town of Greenville. They have formed this ad hoc committee to help with sustainability issues. Mr. Fowle has been working with the group to find stakeholders and what is needed in the Town, mostly pre-planning for property transfers and purchase of development rights as well as other items to promote land conservation.

*iii) E-newsletters now available at ECWRPC -*

Ms. Nau stated that the e-newsletters are being made available and hope to continue to give good information and agenda postings for meetings to the committee members between the printed quarterly newsletters.

*iv) Wisconsin DNR's Phosphorous rules –*

Mr. Baron reported that nothing has been settled with the phosphorous rules that were passed in December 2010. The next time they can revisit the rules is September of this year. Mr. Fowle said we can monitor this topic and report back to the committee as more information becomes available.

**8. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting was tentatively set for 3:00 PM, Tuesday, October 11th, 2011.

**9. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner DuWayne Federwitz and seconded by Commissioner Paul Hirte. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.