

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Open Space and Environmental Management Committee

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
First Floor Conference Room – City of Menasha City Hall ECWRPC Offices
July 10, 2007

Chair Paltzer called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. Eric Fowle asked the committee if the order of the agenda could be changed to move one item under "Other Business" forward to allow him to leave and get on with other work after completing his two report items. Ed Kleckner explained that Menasha's Community Development Director, Greg Keil would be joining the committee shortly to provide commentary on items 3 and 6b, and requested that we take these items out of order also to allow Mr. Keil the courtesy of being able to return to his work. The committee was asked what was their pleasure on amending the proposed agenda. Chairman Paltzer and the Committee accepted the amendments.

Committee Members Present:

Toby Paltzer, Chair..... Outagamie County
Robert DanielsonWaupaca County
Jim Erdman.....Winnebago County

Committee Members Absent:

Yvonne Feavel Waushara County
Don Grissman..... Outagamie County

Staff Present:

Eric FowleExecutive Director
Ed KlecknerPrincipal Planner

1. Compliance with Wisconsin's open meeting requirements was acknowledged.
2. Public Comment – There being none made Chairman Paltzer moved on to item 3.
3. Report on Working Lands Initiative and Regional Agricultural Preservation Initiatives - Fowle

Eric Fowle reported on the current status of the State's Working Lands Initiative and informed the Committee of the ongoing meetings of the Outagamie County Rural Land Use Advisory Committee. Mr. Fowle further noted that a two-day bus tour trip is being arranged using a grant obtained by UW-Extension to visit Dakota County (MN) and other communities which have had successful transfer of development right (TDR) and purchase of development rights (PDR) programs in place for some time. Eric noted that East Central staff has been working with this group as well as several UW-Extension agents in the urbanized area to determine whether or not a region-wide meeting regarding the use/development of a regional agricultural preservation program would be useful. Mr. Fowle stated that informal discussions with various county staff and committees indicated that such a meeting should be pursued. Jim Erdman noted that a lot of the recent discussion regarding agricultural land preservation stems from the current positive market forces in the industry (i.e. ethanol) and that this will need to be factored in to the consideration of any proposal. Mr. Fowle stated that such a program might fill a gap, in terms of need, versus relying solely on the private sector forces. Chairman Toby Paltzer commented that the Wisconsin Realtors Association also needs to be on board with such an effort. Mr. Fowle will continue to work with entities in an attempt to schedule a fall, 2007 meeting on the subject.

4. Progress Report on the Winnebago-Fox-Wisconsin State Heritage Corridor Plan activities – Grant funding initiative – Historic Marker project – Keil & Kleckner

Ed Kleckner explained that to date, both the Oshkosh and Fox Cities Community Foundations have committed \$19,000 each, to be paid over three years, and that a similar commitment is being sought from the Green Bay Area Foundation. The decision by the Greater Green Bay Foundation has been delayed because until recently they did not have a director hired. Mr. Kleckner presented the proposal to the new director, Mr. David Pamperin, in May with the support of representatives from the Friends of the Fox and the Fox River Navigation System Authority. Since then staff has obtained a letter of support from Jim Draeger at the State Historical Society, and John Shier, a founder of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, speaking on the project's behalf. Mr. Kleckner also prepared a 3 page document correlating Foundation interests and grant criteria, with the projects objectives and end products. A decision is anticipated to be made in the near future.

Staff explained that the Historic Marker project will be done with participation from the local historical society organizations of communities surrounding the locks. The project would be a collaborative effort working with the Fox Cities Convention and Visitor Bureau and the Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Trails program. The FRNS Authority will allow placement of the markers on their properties which are already on the National Register.

Mr. Greg Keil explained that the Menasha Downtown Action Committee had some donated money left over and wanted to do another 3-D relief mural like the one on the east wall of the Menasha City Hall, but much smaller. They have proposed locating it at the Menasha lock site. Mr. Keil displayed a rendering of how it would be incorporated into the Historic Marker display as suggested by ECWRPC staff. Mr. Kleckner explained that the Menasha Lock was considered a southern gateway to the system in the State Heritage Corridor Plan, and this artwork would give that marker a greater presence.

5. Picnic Point Property / Winnebago County – DNR's park use planning Process. – Kleckner

The ECWRPC and many local governmental jurisdictions passed resolutions supporting the transfer of this property with Lake Winnebago water frontage to the DNR. Last fall the Governor's office authorized the transfer and now a committee has begun meeting to address how the property can best be utilized. Commissioner Erdman commented that he is now serving on that committee and the Picnic Point Deer subcommittee, and he provided some additional background on the adjoining properties and the committee's direction. Mr. Kleckner provided a handout of the minutes of the group's first meeting.

6. Brief Activity Updates on:

- ECWRPC Representation on the Glatfelter Property Multi-Governmental Study Group.

Ed Kleckner explained that the ECWRPC was asked to participate in a discussion of an offer by the Glatfelter Paper Corporation to give approximately 60 acres to the adjoining communities. The purpose of this group is to study this offer and determine if it should be accepted. A cooperative agreement between the participating communities would be needed.

- Activities related to a Whitewater Kayaking Course Initiative.

Ed Kleckner asked Greg Keil of the City of Menasha to comment on the status of the Whitewater Kayaking course project. Mr. Keil related that the Menasha Redevelopment Authority has now created a TIF District that will allow the Gilbert Paper site to be

redeveloped and the developer and owners are open to ideas which would allow the kayaking course to be incorporated into their redevelopment plan. The project still needs funding to develop a more detailed design for the course. This project would be located in the same site as ECWRPC's proposed new home.

7. Other Business

Eric Fowle brought to the Committee's attention the status of the International Joint Commission's (IJC) upcoming review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, noting that a majority of the East Central region is contained within the Lake Michigan Basin. A document was distributed to the Committee which was prepared by Great Lakes United as a set of overriding principles/guidelines for the IJC to utilize in their review of the agreement. The Great Lakes United organization is looking for entities to "sign on" and support the principles and Mr. Fowle asked the Committee whether they felt it was appropriate for the Commission to consider doing so. Citing concerns regarding the posting of the item on the agenda and having time to review the document, the Committee felt that it should not be acted on by the Committee at this time, but rather, forwarded directly to the full Commission for consideration at its July, 2007 meeting.

8. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Open Space and Environmental Management Committee will be 1:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 9th, 2007.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.