

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Regional Comprehensive Planning Committee
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
9:00 a.m. – New London City Hall, New London, WI
July 29, 2011

Those in attendance:

Merlin Gentz, Chair..... Calumet County
Norm Weiss, Vice-Chair Waushara County
Bob Weyenberg Outagamie County
Brian Smith Waupaca County
Mark Harris Winnebago County
Robert Hermes Menominee County
Eric Fowle ECWRPC Staff
Kathy Thunes ECWRPC Staff

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Weiss and introductions were made.

2. Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Mr. Fowle stated that the meeting notice was posted in accordance with requirements and that a quorum of members was present.

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

Mr. Weyenberg made a motion to nominate Mr. Gentz for Committee Chair. Seconded by Mr. Weiss. No discussion occurred and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Weyenberg made a motion to nominate Mr. Weiss as Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gentz led the remainder of the meeting.

4. Approval of January 28, 2011 Summary of Proceedings

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Weiss to approve the January 28, 2011 summary of proceedings. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

6. Announcements/Upcoming Events

Mr. Fowle referred to a newspaper article which speaks to suburban development trends and issues in the western part of our nation. Mr. Fowle stated that he will include similar articles from outside the area so that the Committee can better comprehend the planning issues at hand, and the approaches that others are taking to address them.

7. 2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application

Ms. Thunes and Mr. Fowle gave an overview of the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant program citing information that was contained in their packet. Ms. Thunes updated the Committee on the preparatory work done thus far by her and other primary partners, that being Center for Land Use Education and the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Thunes and Mr. Fowle

elaborated on the intent of the project, its study area (USH 41 corridor) and the end products which are being considered.

Ms. Thunes discussed the primary and secondary partners/stakeholders that East Central would like to have involved. Mr. Gentz specifically noted that the UW-Fox Valley and Fox Valley Technical Colleges ought to be informed and involved with this project should it be awarded. Ms. Thunes assured Mr. Gentz that these educational institutions were on the list of potential collaborative partners and that staff would be contacting them prior to the submission of the grant application.

Mr. Gentz stated that efforts should be made by staff to ensure that the remainder of East Central's member counties are kept in the loop of how this project will work/is working (if funded) so that they can better see how it benefits the region as a whole. Mr. Fowle noted that many activities in the grant could be replicated by the other counties and their communities and that such efforts will be made during the process.

Given the timing of the proposed grant application, Mr. Fowle thought it would be appropriate to get the Committee's blessings on the effort so that some support can be sent to the full Commission in terms of authorizing submittal of the application. A motion was made by Mr. Weiss and seconded by Mr. Hermes to support the application for these funds. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fowle noted that the Steering Committee may need to take action on necessary resolutions on behalf of the full Commission, however; staff will keep the Committee informed on the progress of this item.

8. Technical Assistance and Contract Project Updates

Mr. Fowle referred to an updated handout listing the ongoing free technical assistance projects. Mr. Fowle reviewed the status of projects and stated that for 2012, a letter and form will be mailed off in August to the communities and counties requesting their list of potential projects.

9. 2011-12 Mini-Conference Events/Planning

Mr. Fowle summarized the last mini-conference which dealt with small wind energy siting, saying that the event was a success. Currently, staff intends on revitalizing some of the past conversations with UW-Extension and the Fox Valley Home Builder's Association in hopes of creating a new mini-conference for fall of this year, or early 2012 which would focus on housing and changing market conditions. Mr. Fowle also noted that several ideas, including a groundwater themed mini-conference or one focusing on transportation planning tools (i.e. road inventory/GIS, PASERWARE, etc.) may be appropriate. Mr. Smith suggested that the issue of water/waterways (i.e. lakes and rivers) be considered as several timely issues have arisen, including the lowering of Lake Weyauwega for vegetation management purposes. A better understanding of the dynamics and management controls for these types of water bodies may be of interest to the region's elected officials and decision-makers.

10. 2010 Regional Land Use Inventory

Mr. Fowle summarized past conversations regarding the inability of the Commission to fund a regional land use inventory which would coincide with the new 2010 aerial photography. East Central staff has been discussing the potential for cost-shared individual contracts with counties that have a need/desire for this information. No firm commitments are in place yet and Mr. Fowle will keep the committee informed of any progress on this item.

11. Regional Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Mr. Fowle noted that these activities take a back burner as compared to other Commission projects and priorities. Mr. Fowle noted that he hopes that a more in-depth report of regional plan implementation successes can be made available by the October meeting.

12. Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 28th, 2011 – just prior to the regular Quarterly Meeting at East Central's offices.

13. Adjourn

Motion made by Mr. Weyenberg and seconded by Mr. Weiss to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned approximately 9:48 a.m.