

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Steering Committee  
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
Outagamie County Board Room  
January 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. by Merlin Gentz, Chair.

Committee Members Present

Merlin Gentz, Chair..... Calumet County  
Norm Weiss ..... Waushara County  
Clifford Sanderfoot..... Outagamie County  
Marshal Giese ..... Shawano County

Committee Members Excused

David Albrecht.....Winnebago County  
Dick Koeppen ..... Waupaca County

Staff Present

Eric Fowle ..... Executive Director  
Walt Raith .....Assistant Director

- 1. Welcome / Introductions
- 2. Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.84 Regarding Open Meetings Requirements.
- 3. Public Comment
- 4. Action Items
  - a. Approval of Contract for Phone Service

The Committee reviewed proposals from both TDS and AT&T to provide phone service to the new offices. Mr. Fowle noted that staff is leaning toward TDS based on both cost and level of responsiveness to the request. The Committee discussed the services and costs outlined by both companies and discussed the various bundles that are available including web hosting and internet service. Mr. Fowle noted that our internet service is currently through Athenet and that the Menasha Utilities fiber optic connection would be transferred to the new building which is solely used for the Commission’s web mapserver.

One change is that the state phone rate for long distance (Centrex) will not be available with either provider as the new voice-over-internet-protocol (VOIP) is not compatible with the State’s system. TDS offers long distance service for 3.6 cents per minute versus 3.1 under the state program. Mr. Fowle described some of the initial costs for internet and web-hosting services, essentially, the cost of an internet router and data set up being \$200 to \$300. He noted that we would still require two lines of analog phone service for the FAX machine and a component of the security system.

Some discussion followed regarding the 5 year contract. Mr. Sanderfoot wondered if a shorter contract period would be available to ensure that the system works out and due to the public nature of the agency. Mr. Sanderfoot recommended a 3 year or shorter term.

After some discussion Mr. Sanderfoot moved to work with TDS and instructed Mr. Fowle to negotiate a shorter service contract, preferably 3 years, if possible. The motion was seconded by Mr. Giese and passed unanimously.

b. Approval of \$5,000 Expenditure to USDA, National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) 2008 Flight for Transportation Planning/Modeling Purposes

Mr. Fowle explained that the state of Wisconsin has an opportunity to obtain 2008 aerial photography through USDA NAIP program. The Committee reviewed the information which estimates a cost of eight dollars per square mile if all counties participate. Some discussion followed regarding the counties being asked to participate. None of the Steering Committee members were aware of the request to the counties as of yet.

Mr. Fowle explained that the aerial photography is extremely useful as part of land use data collection. Over the next few years we will be updating our transportation analysis zone (TAZ) information in preparation for the 2010 census. After providing the updated TAZ structure to the U.S. Census, they provide the census data back to us in that format. Some discussion followed regarding the use of the photography by the Commission and local governments.

Mr. Fowle said he would attempt to provide the funding on behalf of the counties as a benefit to membership in the Commission. He explained that federal funds currently in our budget can be used for the project that requires a 20 percent local match. The project would be part of our transportation planning program that includes the development of the Northeast Region Travel Demand Model.

Mr. Wiese moved to approve the \$5,000 expenditure for the air photo project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Giese and passed unanimously.

5. Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda

Mr. Fowle stated that at the present time no meetings have been scheduled. He said he would contact the Committee well in advance and thought the next meeting would be sometime in March. Some discussion followed regarding the next Commission meeting being held in the new offices.

6. Adjourn

With no additional business Mr. Gentz asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Weiss and seconded by Mr. Giese to adjourn at 11:30 A.M.