

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION  
April 25, 2007

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ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MARILYN BHEND  
GEORGE BORNEMANN  
FRED CAMACHO  
ROBERT CURRAN  
TOM HAFERMAN  
ROBERT HAYWARD  
ERHARD HUETTL  
RON JACOBSON  
BRAD KARGER  
DONALD KRAHN  
MAURICE MATHEWS  
HELM MEHUS  
PAUL MILLAN  
BETTYE NALL  
WILBUR PETROSKEY  
CURTIS POWELL  
THOMAS RICK  
THOMAS RUDOLPH  
DOUG WILLIAMS

STAFF PRESENT:

DARRYL LANDEAU  
DENNIS LAWRENCE  
BERNIE LEWIS

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bill Tehan, President of Centergy &  
Attorney at Ruder Ware Law Firm

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

DONALD KLINE  
BEVERLY LONG  
RON NYE  
HERB RIECKMANN

1.) CALL TO ORDER:

MR. HUETTTL called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M., in the Aspen Room at the Midway Hotel & Hoffman House Restaurant. Roll call was as presented on page one.

2.) AUDIENCE COMMENT:

MR. HUETTTL asked if there were any comments from the audience. There were none.

3.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA AS MAILED:

MR. HUETTTL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Agenda as mailed. There being none, a motion was made by MR. HAYWARD and seconded by MR. HAFERMAN to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

4.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2006 COMMISSION MEETING:

MR HUETTTL asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes as mailed. MR. RUDOLPH made a motion to approve the Minutes and MR. HAYWARD seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

5.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

MR. HUETTTL announced that Don Kline was not present due to being hospitalized for pneumonia and is now home recovering. MR. HUETTTL indicated that the Executive Committee reviewed the financial report and found it to be very strong. He stated that the auditor reaffirmed that NCWRPC was in a very good financial standing.

5.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

MS. NALL reported that the Executive Committee received the 2006 auditor's report and that it was available for review for the Commissioners. The Committee discussed the designation of funds and authorized NCWRPC to contribute \$2,500 toward the Grow North study effort. She advised that Wisconsin Rapids has become the newest member of the NCWRPC.

5.3 STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE:

MR. LAWRENCE stated that due to scheduling conflicts he was not able to meet with UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent(s). The request is for assistance in the next phase of the Strategic Planning process that looks at the current and future needs of members and non-members related to NCWRPC assistance. MR. LAWRENCE said that hopefully this would happen in the near future so that the Strategic Planning Committee could work on this phase. More will be provided about this at a future meeting.

5.4 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDY FOR CENTRAL WISCONSIN (Tentative Presenter: Bill Tehan, Centergy President & Ruder Ware, LLSC):

MR. LAWRENCE introduced Bill Tehan, President of Centergy and attorney with the Ruder Ware Law Firm. Mr. Tehan explained that in 1988 the Central Wisconsin Alliance for Economic Development (Centergy) was developed in the Central Wisconsin Counties of Marathon, Portage and Wood to retain and attract thriving businesses and a high quality work force, foster entrepreneurial activity and inspire continuous improvement in the region's quality of life. Centergy, together with the Chambers of Commerce for Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids; the educational facilities of UW-Stevens Point, and Mid-State Technical College; Wisconsin Public Service and Alliant Energy representing utilities; and private sectors representing media, manufacturing, insurance, transportation, health care, banking and software development have combined their energies to encourage development, support local businesses, attract new businesses, achieve higher education facilities, and improve life in general for all of Central Wisconsin.

Mr. Tehan stated that employers value the strong work ethics of the labor force in the area as well as the educational services provided by the University of Wisconsin together with Mid-State Technical College and Northcentral Technical Collage. Students consistently rank high in the nation on ACT scores. The interstate highway system, air and rail service as well and many acres of developable land with access to utilities and transportation all aid in the economic development in the region.

Mr. Tehan stated that the demographic findings indicates that Wisconsin lags behind the nation in per capita personal income and Central Wisconsin lags behind Wisconsin in per capita income, and these gaps are widening. He said that good paying jobs with good benefits have been lost to productivity gains, global competition, corporate downsizing, and outsourcing. Mr. Tehan said that there is a direct relationship between the level of education and income level. Markets in the New Economy reward education and skills and that in the next seven years 63 percent of all new jobs created will require a minimum of a four year college degree. The job growth in Central Wisconsin is expected

to be strongest in health care, information technology, sales, construction and transportation. Jobs in paper manufacturing are expected to decline.

Mr. Tehan concluded by stating that Central Wisconsin has untapped assets and competitive advantages and a talented work force which needs to have a greater educational attainment. Questions and comments from the audience followed.

5.5 REGIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION & ROLE OF NCWRPC:

MR. LAWRENCE stated that this item was on the Agenda to provide a follow-up discussion related to the previous agenda item. The NCWRPC was active in providing assistance to Centergy as they developed their plan, and is now active with Grow North as they develop their plan. Both of these regional groups would continue to need assistance and the NCWRPC will continue to provide that assistance. These regional efforts also relate to the new Governor's Business Council that is intended to provide some funding to regional efforts statewide.

5.6 2006 ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW:

MR. LAWRENCE provided an overview of the 2006 Annual Report. He noted that an additional item would be expanded under the summary of projects for Langlade County to include "County Coordinated Transportation Services Study", and some minor changes to the wording under the Publications section. Once this is corrected, the Report will be ready for publication.

MS. NALL made a motion to accept the 2006 Annual Report and MR. KRAHN seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.7 REFERRALS REVIEW:

MR. LANDEAU reviewed referrals received totaling \$19,197,915. For Wood County one was for equipment for three child care centers; one for improvements for child care center and the third was for USDA Rural Development for Child Care Centers of Marshfield, Marshfield Academy Charter School and Companion Day Services. One referral is multi-county to provide physician, pharmacy, dental and community health programming for low-income residents in an 11 county area.

MR. PETROSKEY made a motion to approve the referrals received and MR. MILLAN seconded this motion. Motion carried.

5.8 OTHER, including set next meeting date:

MR. LAWRENCE announced that the next two meetings scheduled for the Commission meetings would be on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007. He also mentioned that the second AWRPC Regional Economic Development Conference Program would be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, in Madison.

6.) ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by MR. RUDOLPH to adjourn the meeting 12:15 P.M., and MR. HAYWARD seconded this motion. All were in favor. A buffet lunch was served immediately following the meeting.

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NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
Minutes Approved on June 27, 2007

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Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary-Treasurer