

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes**

April 28, 2021

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
WILLIAM CHANEY
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING
PAUL GILK
ROCKY GILNER
DANIEL GUILD
ROBERT HANSON
CHRIS HOLMAN
DAVE LaFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
DOUGLAS MACHON
PAUL MILLAN
JERRY NELSON
JERRY NILES
RONALD NYE
RICK PEASE
THOMAS RUDOLPH
EDMUND WAFLE
CATHERINE WINEMAN
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

CINDY GRETZINGER
CRAIG McEWEN
JAY VERHULST

STAFF PRESENT:

CARRIE EDMONDSON
ANDY FAUST
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER
PAM WINKELS

GUESTS PRESENT:

HANS BREITENMOSER, Lincoln
County, Pending Joint Appointee

WILLIAM CLENDENNING, Board
Member, Wood County

AMBER DANIELSKI, CLA
(CliftonLarsonAllen LLP)

CANDISE MILLER, Executive Director,
Farming for the Future Foundation

GREGG WAVRUNEK, Regional
Representative, US Senator Tammy
Baldwin

JUDY WOLLER, Board Member,
Lincoln County

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM and welcomed everyone. Guests in attendance were Hans Breitenmoser (Lincoln County), William Clendenning (Wood County), Amber Danielski, Candise Miller (Farming for the Future Foundation), Gregg Wavrunek, and Judy Woller (Lincoln County). The following NCWRPC staff members were also in attendance: Carrie Edmondson, Andy Faust, and Eric Sonnleitner.

2.) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

3.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2021 MEETING:

MR. MILLAN asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as mailed. There being none, MR. CUSHING made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, and MR. RUDOLPH seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

4.1 Chairperson's Welcome

MR. MILLAN welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4.2 Executive Committee's Report

MS. BAUGHAN provided the Executive Committee's Report. Financial information was reviewed – current and 2020 year-end review; the NCWRPC is in good financial standing. Various economic development and other opportunities were also discussed. The Executive Director provided an update on grants, agreements, and staffing. Lastly, there was some discussion regarding future bylaws and handbook changes.

4.3 State & Federal Updates

GREGG WAVRUNEK, Regional Representative, US Senator Tammy Baldwin, provided several updates, some of which included: emergency COVID-19 and restaurant revitalization programs that are currently active; bipartisan legislation such as PPP Flexibility for Farmers, Ranchers, and the Self-Employed Act, Made in

America Act, and bills regarding infrastructure; American Jobs Plan and other legislation to assist American families.

4.4 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Discussion

MR. LAWRENCE provided information regarding the funds that will be allocated to the State, including our ten-county region. Our ten-county region expects approximately \$140 million: an estimated \$85 million will go to our counties and over \$55 million to our cities, villages, and towns; tribes will also receive funding, but the amount is unknown at this time. Communities will have three years to spend the funds. Final rules are currently being developed for eligible uses by the US Department of Treasury.

4.5 2020 Audit Report Review, Amber Danielski, CLA Auditors

MR. MILLAN introduced AMBER DANIELSKI from CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP). MS. DANIELSKI stated that in the opinion letter the NCWRPC received a clean opinion. She reviewed the Annual Financial Report, particularly the Financial Statements. The Statement of Net Position reflected Total Assets of \$2,254,510 and Total Liabilities of \$466,419, for a Total Net Position of \$1,455,657. Total Operating Revenues were \$1,434,667, and Total Operating Expenses were \$1,287,459.

MS. DANIELSKI stated that the “Other Assets/Net Pension Asset” is related to the Wisconsin Retirement System. She also mentioned that Membership Tax Levies increased in 2020. Finally, there are many footnotes due to GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) rules, and this may increase in the future. Again, the clean audit opinion is a positive report.

4.6 2020 Annual Report Review and Adoption

MR. LAWRENCE presented the draft of the 2020 Annual Report. The Annual Report is an overview of the activities of the organization over the calendar year. Regional planning commissions are required to prepare an Annual Report under state statute. Once approved the report will be formatted, printed, and distributed to elected officials and other interested parties.

The Annual Report includes projects that fall into the 5 main program areas as well as accomplishments listed by region and county. Other sections of the document include: the purpose, history and mission statement of NCWRPC, organizational goals, local assistance, audited 2020 financial statements, North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation information, and a listing of both professional staff and commissioners.

MR. LEE made a motion to approve the 2020 Annual Report, and MR. BALCERZAK seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.7 EDA CARES Act Update (Recovery Plan, CEDS, Health, Land Use & TA)

MS. EDMONDSON and MR. SONNLEITNER, planners at NCWRPC, provided an update on the EDA CARES Act. "Earlier this year, the NCWRPC was awarded a grant from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help with the economic recovery of the region as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic." The update included information on the Regional Recovery Plan, Stakeholder Outreach, CEDS Update, Regional Health Pandemic Assessment and Future Response Report, and Technical Assistance and Planning Support.

4.8 NCWRPC Website Upgrades

MR. FAUST explained upgrades to the NCWRPC website; he also maneuvered around the new website for those that were attending the meeting via videoconference. A content management system called Word Press is being used to develop the new website. There will be a "Related Projects" section under each county, and it will be more user friendly than the current website.

4.9 Farming for the Future Exploration Center Presentation, Candise Miller, Executive Director

MS. MILLER, Executive Director of Farming for the Future Foundation, presented information on a Food + Farm Exploration Center that is currently in the design and development phase. It will be an educational, learning center that will create connections between people and agriculture. The Exploration Center will be in Plover on a 24-acre site along Highway I-39. The plan is to break ground in 2022 and open in 2023.

4.10 Announcements

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2021. It will be determined closer to the meeting date if the meeting will be held virtually or in person.

MR. MILLAN then thanked everyone for attending the meeting, especially the presenters.

5.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. MILLAN adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

The meeting was advertised and open to the public. The meeting was held via videoconference/Google Meet.

Minutes Approved on July 28, 2021:
