

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

LORETTA BAUGHAN
ROCKY GILNER
AL HAGA, JR.
RON NYE
CRAIG McEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
JERRY NELSON
THOMAS RUDOLPH
JAY VERHULST

STAFF PRESENT

DENNIS LAWRENCE

MEMBERS EXCUSED

OTHERS PRESENT

1.) ROLL CALL

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M., and the roll call was as presented.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2021 MEETING.

On the motion of MR. VERHULST, second by MR. NELSON, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3.) DISCUSSION/BUSINESS

3.1 Executive Director's Report

MR. LAWRENCE stated that he had been in contact with the Governor's Appointment Office regarding three Commissioners up for reappointment. Cindy Gretzinger in Forest County, Jerry Niles in Juneau County, and Ted Cushing in Onieda County all have terms expiring in January. He then mentioned that Juneau County is waiting until after the Spring elections to appoint a new County representative while Vilas County is still pulling together names for the vacant seat they have.

Next, he mentioned that the contract amendment approved at the last meeting for the extension of Ayres for the WROC has been completed. It is ready for signature by the Chairperson.

Finally, he mentioned the Northwest Regional Planning Commission is working to move forward a bill to the state legislature to provide local property tax exemption for regional planning commissions that currently own real estate. Only three of the nine RPCs own property. The bill has been approved by both the Assembly and Senate, and is now moving to the Governor's office.

3.2 Current Financial Report

MR. LAWRENCE distributed copies of the current financial report. The report identifies about \$1,891,000 in cash and deposits, and about \$95,000 in outstanding receivables, for a total of \$1,986,036. Payables total about \$59,000, which leaves a current financial position of \$1,927,436. At the previous meeting, the financial position was \$1,880,314. Overall, the organization continues to be in a good financial position.

On the motion of MR. NYE, second by MR. HAGA, JR., the financial report was accepted. All were in favor.

3.3 Financial Year End Review & Audit Schedule

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the 2021 Revenues and Expenses Statement for November, 30 2021. December statements are not yet complete. The handout displays both Actual and Budget amounts. Overall Revenues are at just over \$3,000,000, which includes \$2 million from the Main Street Bounce Back (MSBB) Program. Subtracting the MSBB amount revenues are at about \$1 million for the year, which compares to the budgeted amount. Total expenditures, when subtracting MSBB, are about \$700,000, which is below the budgeted amount. Some of that is explained because of a vacant planner position carried in the budget. Finally, he stated that the audit was scheduled for the week of February 7th and should be ready for our April meeting.

3.4 Programs, Grants & Agreements Update

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the three current EDA programs underway for the region. Then he discussed some pending grants, including the DOT TAP grant for the Regional Safe Routes to School program and the grant for the Town of Saratoga for both planning and development activities. There are three EDA grant efforts being assisted: a business incubator in Lac du Flambeau, a Food & Farm Exploration Center in Plover, and a new recreational area in Rhinelander. Last he mentioned a new comprehensive agreement for the Town of Clearfield in Juneau County.

He also provided an update on the Main Street Bounce Back grant program. We are still accepting applications for the Main Street program. To date, 151 awards have been made totaling over \$1.5 Million. Our goal is at least 200 grants. We will be making a request to WEDC for an additional \$1 Million for the program. The program will continue through about June 2022.

3.5 Staffing Update

MR. LAWRENCE provided an overview of the Senior Planner position description and the advertising process. Only three applicants were received for the position. Two were solid candidates and initial interviews have been held. Final interviews will occur later this week with the hope of having someone on board in March.

3.6 Transfer & Transition of NCWDC to NCWRPC

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the information in the meeting packet. He started with a brief history of the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation - our 501 (c) 3 revolving loan fund organization. The NCWRPC provided \$50,000 of local match funds to secure a \$450,000 IRP 30 – year loan to create the \$500,000 loan fund. The NCWRPC also

injected additional funds to help cover some losses from loan defaults early in the operation of the fund. In total, the fund revolved twice and made 19 loans throughout the region and helped retain or create over 400 jobs.

In the past few years lending has been a challenge for a variety of reasons and now with the repayment of the USDA loan complete, less than \$460,000 remains in the fund. In addition, the Central Wisconsin Economic Development is now serving all ten counties, with substantially more resources and professional staff. The time was right to close the fund and return the match contributions to the NCWRPC. Therefore, the NCWDC Board voted to phase down operations of the NCWDC and transfer assets back to the NCWRPC and move duties of that phase down to the NCWRPC executive committee.

Some of the actions that will occur over the next few years as a result of the action taken by the NCWDC include the following: Transition of Oversight from the NCWDC Board of Directors to the NCWRPC Executive Committee; Transfer of match funds provided to the NCWDC back to the NCWRPC; Annual Meeting will be incorporated as a annual item for the Executive Committee; and Final Closeout - when the loan is paid off and the judgment is released all of the final remaining funds will be transferred to the NCWRPC. The NCWDC accounts will then be closed. Returned funds are intended for economic development purposes.

4.) ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

The meeting was advertised and open to the public.

Minutes Approved on April 27, 2022
