

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2022

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
HANS BREITENMOSER
WILLIAM CHANEY
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING (Call-in)
JAMI GEBERT
ROCKY GILNER
CINDY GRETZINGER (Call-in)
ALAN HAGA, JR.
ROBERT HANSON (Call-in)
DAVE LAFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
DOUGLAS MACHON
BETTY MANSON
CRAIG MCEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
JERRY NELSON
JERRY NILES
RONALD NYE
DAVID OBERBECK
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
STEVEN SCHREIER
KENNETH WINTERS

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDY FAUST
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER
SAM WESSEL

OTHERS PRESENT:

JASON GRUENEBERG, Wood Co.
KEITH LANGEHAN, WCA
PHILLIP RYNISH, DNR
BRYAN STANEK, Compeer
YOYI STEELE, DNR
JAMES YACH, DNR

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

DANIEL GUILD
JOHN PAVELSKI
RICK PEASE
EUGENE SIMON
JAY VERHULST

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. There was a quorum.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2022 MEETING:

MR. MILLAN asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as mailed. MR. NYE made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by MR. CUSHING. Motion passed.

3.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

3.1 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

MR. MILLAN asked the new Commissioner Betty Manson from Juneau County to introduced herself. He also asked newer Commissioner Jami Gebert from Adams County to introduce herself.

3.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

MS. BAUGHAN provided an overview of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier. She then stated that the Western Wisconsin Freight Rail Plan has been delayed because of timing on receiving federal data. This will likely require a request for a time extension to WisDOT. Finally, she stated that the NCWRPC has been awarded over 360 Main Street Bounce Back grants (\$10,000 each) that help businesses. As a result of the activity, the NCWRPC has received another \$1 million award from the state for the program.

3.3 STATE & FEDERAL UPDATES

MR. LANGENHAN, Wisconsin Counties Association, mentioned that WisDOT is briefing counties on plans for car charging locations around the state. He encouraged county officials to subscribe to updates for various policies. For example, a new supreme court ruling regarding the authority of public health officials has a briefing that county officials can attend remotely. He also encouraged attendance at the WCA Conference September 18th-20th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Following elections this fall, almost half the state legislature will be newly elected and WCA is putting together items to lobby for in the next legislative session. Finally, he encouraged everyone to listen in on the WCA Monday leadership calls.

3.4 RESOLUTION 2022-4 – RECOGNITION OF THOMAS RUDOLPH

MR. LAWRENCE stated that for long serving Commissioners we take action to recognize them for their dedication. MR. RUDOLPH represented Oneida County for twenty years on the NCWRPC, including many years on the Executive Committee. He also served on the Oneida County Board for several years.

MR. LEE made the motion to approve the resolution and MR. MILLAN seconded. Motion passed.

3.5 RESOLUTION 2022-5 – ESTABLISH 2023 LEVY RATE & CAP RATE

MR. LAWRENCE explained that establishing the rate was the first step in the annual budgeting process. Regional planning commissions are allowed to levy a charge up to 0.003% against the real estate valuation of its members. The current rate is less than one third of that rate. We also set a levy cap that any one member pays because of the wide range of valuation of the ten counties.

Resolution 2022-5 recommends a rate not to exceed rate of 0.000757%, which was the final rate charged last year. When real estate valuations are received from DOR this rate will be applied and adjusted down to arrive at the final rate for 2023. The recommendation is also to decrease the levy cap to \$41,500. Overall, anticipated collections to fund 2023 work activities is about \$290,000.

MR. BALCERZAK made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MR. NELSON. Motion passed.

3.6 REVIEW & ADOPTION OF CEDS AMENDMENT – RESILIENCY CHAPTER

MR. LAWRENCE stated that one of the requirements as part of the CARES funding the NCWRPC received from EDA was to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to include both resiliency and recovery chapters. At this meeting we will review the resiliency chapter and in October we will review the other chapter.

MR. SONNLEITNER explained EDA defines resiliency as an area's ability to recover, withstand, or avoid altogether shocking events like natural disasters or pandemics. The resiliency chapter has 5 focus areas or pillars: (1) Broadband: this improves job skills, education, ecommerce, safety, health, and workforce development. (2) Childcare: this improves education and socioeconomic gaps and improves labor force participation. Seventy percent of those not in the workforce cite taking care of their families. It also makes the region attractive to young

families. (3) Housing/Transportation: more housing and transportation options help household budgets and a better supply of housing keeps prices in check. Transportation options also help quality of life and people are healthier when they don't drive everywhere. (4) Workforce development: this aligns the workforce with employer needs and better life outcomes. (5) Tourism/Hospitality: the goal is to increase the attractiveness of these jobs since they have staffing shortages and supporting the industry makes the region more attractive.

A dashboard of various indicators is still being developed online to track data, like childcare shortages. It is hard to find up-to-date, detailed data. MS. GEBERT mentioned there is value in showing this data to those looking to start a childcare center. The dashboard will be presented at the next meeting.

MR. CHANEY made a motion to amend the CEDS and incorporate the resiliency chapter, second by MR. LAFONTAINE. Motion passed.

3.7 PRESENTATION: CARBON CREDIT MARKETS

MR. LAWRENCE stated that several counties have been approached by carbon credit vendors and there was a need to provide some education on the topic. This presentation is intended to provide a general overview of the carbon credit marketplace.

MR. STANEK, from Compeer, started by saying it is hard to monetize carbon, but it is currently about \$20 to offset one ton. One ton of carbon is released from 100 gallons of gasoline, or one gallon equals 20 lbs. He described how companies purchase carbon credits to offset their footprint, which often are forests which private landowners grow longer to hold more carbon. Surveys show, nearly one-third of Americans are willing to offset the carbon footprint of flying. Tesla is worth more than all other automakers combined which shows that there is consumer demand for electric products.

There are voluntary and compliance-based approaches depending on the laws where you live. Europe and Canada adopted carbon offsets first, but now people are looking at the U.S. California is the 5th largest economy, so their policies affect these markets even for those who don't live there. It is more expensive in MN/WI/IL to purchase offsets because of the soil type. Some companies have good pricing models, others are new startups that need to be vetted. Methane and N₂O are also growing areas that need offsets.

3.8 PRESENTATION: DNR CENTRAL SAND PLAINS REPORT

MR. LAWRENCE mentioned that the DNR conducts several planning efforts across the state and some recent plans will have an impact on our region. These plans also often provide background information for some of our planning work.

MR. PHILLIP RYNISH and MS. YOYI STEELE, both with the DNR, provided an update on the Central Sand Plains Report. This plan is required under the program found in State regulations NR44 and it builds off all the other DNR plans. Phase 1 is pre-planning/scoping, Phase 2 is Plan Development, which the Central Sands Report is near the end of, and Phase 3 is Plan Approval. A draft is out for public comment until August 5. The report also recommends improvements for various properties. For example, some are more outdoor recreation-oriented, and others are more rare species protection-oriented. Individual properties also have their own plans. The plan will be adopted this Fall.

Other DNR planning efforts underway include Rib Mountain State Park and North Central Forest Plans. MS. GEBERT suggested that those purchasing stickers identify their most frequently visited park so that more remote parks don't get short changed when improvements are proposed, since visitation is difficult to track when you can buy a sticker online.

3.9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next meeting would be held on October 26th.

4.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. MILLAN adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

The meeting was advertised and open to the public. The meeting was held at the Wausau Entrepreneurial & Education Center, Wausau.

Minutes Approved on October 26, 2022:
