

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
HANS BREITENMOSER
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING
PAUL GILK
ROCKY GILNER
DANIEL GUILD
ALLEN HAGA
ROBERT HANSON
CHRIS HOLMAN
DAVE LaFONTAINE
HARLAND LEE
DOUGLAS MACHON
CRAIG McEWEN
PAUL MILLAN
JERRY NELSON
JERRY NILES
RONALD NYE
DAVID OBERBECK
RICK PEASE
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
THOMAS RUDOLPH
JAY VERHULST
KENNETH WINTERS

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

WILLIAM CHANEY
CINDY GRETZINGER

STAFF PRESENT:

CARRIE EDMONDSON
ANDY FAUST
DENNIS LAWRENCE
ERIC SONNLEITNER
PAM WINKELS

GUESTS PRESENT:

DAN BAUMANN, Secretary's
Director-West Central Region,
Wisconsin DNR

WILLIAM CLENDENNING, Board
Member, Wood County

JUDY NAGEL, County Clerk, Langlade
County

GREGG WAVRUNEK, Regional
Representative, US Senator Tammy
Baldwin

GREG WRIGHT, Executive Director,
CREATE Portage

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS:

Due to MR. MILLAN experiencing audio issues, MS. BAUGHAN, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

2.) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Three new Commissioners introduced themselves: MR. ALLEN HAGA (Portage County, Joint Appointee), MR. DAVID OBERBECK (Marathon County, County Appointee), and MR. LARRY RAIKOWSKI (Portage County, Governor Appointee).

3.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 2021 MEETING:

MS. BAUGHAN 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. MACHON seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

4.1 Chairperson's Welcome

MS. BAUGHAN welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4.2 Executive Committee's Report

MS. BAUGHAN provided the Executive Committee's Report. A positive item is that revenue this year is expected to increase. However, filling staff openings has been a challenge, so the Executive Committee shared ideas regarding the hiring process. Other items discussed included a bank "housekeeping" item, changes to the Employee Handbook, staffing changes, and a 2021 budget amendment.

4.3 State & Federal Updates

GREGG WAVRUNEK, Regional Representative, US Senator Tammy Baldwin, provided several updates, some of which included: negotiations to improve infrastructure, statewide broadband funding, funding opportunities related to the American Rescue Plan, timber harvesting and timber hauling relief efforts in conjunction with the USDA, and the Volunteer First Responder Housing Act.

DAN BAUMANN, Secretary's Director-West Central Region, Wisconsin DNR, stated that the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CFA) has some Environmental Loan Programs available "to municipalities and tribes for eligible water infrastructure projects." The CFA is also partnering with organizations, groups, and

individuals to provide “grant funding and technical assistance to partners for approved projects.” Information on these programs were provided electronically prior to the meeting. Mr. Baumann mentioned some budget items in his report, too.

4.4 Resolution 2021-2: Recognition of Catherine Wineman

MR. LAWRENCE stated that Catherine Wineman has completed her term as a Marathon County Commissioner. She was a County appointment who served as a Commissioner since 2015. MS. WINEMAN’s service to NCWRPC and her community over the years is greatly appreciated. To acknowledge her service to our organization we will present her with a Resolution of Recognition.

MR. CUSHING made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-2: Recognition of Catherine Wineman for Service to the NCWRPC. MR. McEWEN seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.5 Resolution 2021-3: Signature Authorization

MR. LAWRENCE explained that this Resolution will allow the Executive Director to enter into agreements and sign related documents. Currently, this is needed for a project with the Minnesota DOT.

MR. HAGA made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-3: Signature Authorization. MR. RUDOLPH seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.6 Resolution 2021-4: Establish 2022 Membership Levy Rate

Every year the NCWRPC establishes a levy rate, along with a cap, to fund its ongoing membership services throughout the Region. MR. LAWRENCE briefly reviewed the budget process and levy rate process. The handout provided to Commissioners included the 2021 budget breakdown (revenues and expenditures), the preliminary 2022 budget, and the levy rate process and actions. The “not to exceed” rate is set in July, then the Department of Revenue Real Estate (RE) valuations are received in mid-August, and then a final rate is calculated using the RE values; this rate is less than the not to exceed rate.

MR. BALCERZAK made a motion to set the “not to exceed” levy rate at the recommended rate of 0.000795%. MR. VERHULST seconded this motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

4.7 Establish 2022 Cap Limit for Counties

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the Executive Committee had also discussed the 2022 Levy Cap for counties and recommended it “not to exceed” \$42,000; this is lower than the previous year cap of \$42,500.

MR. BALCERZAK made a motion to set the 2022 Levy Cap for counties “not to exceed” \$42,000. MR. VERHULST seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.8 Recommended Bylaws Changes

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the recommended Bylaws changes. Commissioners received a document of the current Bylaws with recommended changes highlighted. After discussion, it was decided that two amendments be made to the recommended Bylaws: (1) Page 3, Article V, Section 1 - The last sentence will be changed to, “Executive Committee members shall select an alternate from their county’s delegation to represent them if they are unable to attend a Committee meeting.” (2) Page 5, Article IX, Section 1 – The word “Chairperson” (which appears twice) will be changed to “Executive Committee” in this Section.

MR. LaFONTAINE made a motion to make the recommended Bylaw changes with the amendments decided upon during the meeting. MR. VERHULST seconded this motion. Motion carried.

4.9 EDA CARES Act Update

MS. EDMONDSON and MR. SONNLEITNER, planners at NCWRPC, provided an update on the EDA CARES Act. The Regional Recovery Plan document will contain short-term and long-term strategies to build a resilient and sustainable region. The update included information on action by the Task Force and updates on the following sections: Broadband, Childcare, Housing & Transportation, and Tourism & Hospitality. Also, a regional survey has been sent out, and draft recommendations and the timeline were reviewed in the update. Members present asked questions, and there was some discussion and recommendations for possible changes in the current document.

4.10 SPRINT Challenge Grant - CREATE Portage, Greg Wright, Executive Director

“In partnership with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, CREATE Portage County was awarded funding through Scaling Pandemic Resilience Through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT) Challenge to launch CREATE Your Community.” MR. WRIGHT, Executive Director of CREATE Portage, provided a presentation on this initiative. The work environment is changing from an industrial age to a more creative, capacity-focused environment. SPRINT Challenge involves communities working together to create strong economies

using innovation. Mr. Wright explained CREATE's ecosystem building model which will be utilized in the 10-county Region.

4.11 Announcements

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2021.
MS. BAUGHAN thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

5.) ADJOURNMENT:

MR. RUDOLPH made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by MR. LEE. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

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

Minutes Approved on October 27, 2021:
