

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT

LORETTA BAUGHAN
ROCKY GILNER
DAVID LAFONTAINE
BETTY MANSON
PAUL MILLAN
RON NYE

STAFF PRESENT

DENNIS LAWRENCE
SAM WESSEL

MEMBERS EXCUSED

TED CUSHING

OTHERS PRESENT

1.) ROLL CALL

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

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2026, MEETING

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. GILNER, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3.) DISCUSSION/BUSINESS

3.1 Executive Director's Report

MR. LAWRENCE stated that we will have two new Commissioners at our Full Commission Meeting, Phil McLaughlin representing Adams County and Eric Olson representing Portage County. We still have three vacancies, one in Forest, and two in Vilas County. Staff will continue to work with the Governor's Appointment Office and the counties to get these positions filled.

Next, he mentioned that there were some pending changes being monitored related to the Federal Grant Uniform Guidelines. Some of the proposed changes could be harmful to our federal funding. Then he mentioned that our Federal Indirect Cost Rate was being updated now that the audit was complete. He also mentioned that the Annual Report was at the graphic artist being formatted and then printed. Mailout should occur in August. He then informed them that we will have a visit in August from EDA staff to discuss operations, changes and projects.

Finally, he stated that our long-time accountant has retired and a new person has taken over our account.

3.2 Current Financial Report

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the Year End financial report. The report identifies about \$2,515,000 in cash and deposits, and about \$127,000 in outstanding receivables, for a total of \$2,642,413. Payables total about \$63,000, which leaves a current financial position of \$2,579,413. At the previous meeting, the financial position was \$2,544,511. Overall, the organization continues to be in a good financial position.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. NYE, the financial report was accepted and placed on file. All were in favor.

3.3 Programs, Grants & Agreements Update

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the report in the meeting packet. First, he discussed the current EDA and the DOT planning programs underway for the region. He then discussed status of the WisDOT TAP grants. Then he mentioned several of the local work agreements being developed for comprehensive plans and other projects. WROC was discussed including the major rebates provided to our member counties, ranging from \$11,000 to \$66,000.

3.4 County Appointments to Executive Committee

MR. LAWRENCE informed the committee that there should be 10 members on the Executive Committee, but because of vacancies three counties do not have a current representative. Usually when all three members are appointed, those members jointly decide which person would serve on the committee. As these current vacancies are filled, we will add new members.

3.5 Preview 2027 Budget & Recommendation of Levy Rate/Caps

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the handout from the packet. Expenditures to complete anticipated work for members is about \$420,000. With EDA and DOT funding providing about \$150,000, a gap of about \$270,000 needs to be collected via the levy. He reviewed the levy proposal showing both the recommended levy rate and cap rates for 2027. Multiple years ago, because of the wide range of real estate valuations in our ten counties, a cap rate was established to better distribute membership costs. A second cap level was approved last year.

Basically, the cap for any county over \$10 billion in valuation will be \$39,000 and those over \$15 billion in valuation will be \$41,000. With those caps, it is recommended to set the levy rate not to exceed 0.0004199%. With this levy rate and the county caps at \$41,000 and \$39,000 the work program will be funded.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. GILNER, a recommendation was made to set the "Not to Exceed" rate at 0.0004199% and maintain a cap of \$39,000 for counties over \$9 billion in real estate valuation and \$41,000 for counties with over \$15 billion in value. Motion carried.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MS. BAUGHAN, the Recommended Levy Rate and Caps were approved as discussed. Motion carried.

3.6 Policies & Procedures

MR. LAWRENCE mentioned that over the next year staff will be reviewing a variety of Commission policies and procedures, including Open Records procedures, AI policy, Technology policy, and the Employee Handbook. He asked if there were any others that might be examined. At future meetings some of these will be brought forward for discussion and possible change.

3.7 Announcements

MR. MILLAN stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 28, 2026 at the Wausau Business Insulator.

4.) ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

The meeting was held at the Wausau Business Incubator,
advertised, and open to the public.

Minutes Approved on October 28, 2026
