

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

DENNIS LAWRENCE

MEMBERS EXCUSED

OTHERS PRESENT

1.) ROLL CALL

The 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 30, 2024 MEETING.

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

3.) DISCUSSION/BUSINESS

3.1 Executive Director's Report

MR. LAWRENCE provided a copy of an OMB memo related to the "Temporary Pause of Agency Grants." This memo was released on January 27 and has been creating much confusion for the status of federal grant funding. Next, he mentioned that EDA had been reauthorized - the first time in twenty years. There were also some programs changes, one is that the grant ratio increases from 50% to 60% and additional projects are eligible for funding.

He then reviewed the status of Commissioners. Ray Reser was appointed in Portage County to replace Al Haga. Jr. and Reinhardt Balcerzak was reappointed in Langlade County. We still have one open position in Juneau County and two in Vilas County. Staff will continue to work with the Governor's Appointment Office and the counties to get these positions filled. Finally, he mentioned that the NCWRPC's annual financial audit will be conducted on February 10 and 11th. CLA will once again complete the audit, and they should have the report ready for our April meeting.

3.2 Current Financial Report

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the Year End financial report. The report identifies about \$2,23,000 in cash and deposits, and about \$311,000 in outstanding receivables, for a total of \$2,534,815. Payables total about \$63,000, which leaves a current financial position of \$2,471,715. At the previous meeting, the financial position was \$2,512,723. 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. Then he discussed EDA grants, one pending for the City of Antigo to modernize its wastewater treatment plant and the other a Technical Assistance application submitted for the NCWRPC. With the recent reauthorization we were able to change the grant rate and fund an additional local project in Lincoln County with the savings. There were also three FEMA All Hazard Mitigation Plan grants awarded. Contacts will be prepared in place for the beginning of the year.

Next, he mentioned some small local work agreements for various communities. Finally, he stated that state and federal funding was still being collected for the 2025 WROC air photo program.

3.4 Review 2025 Work Program

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the information in the meeting packet. Annually, the NCWRPC prepares a work program to guide work efforts over the year. The Work Program includes over 60 projects over all five of the major work areas of economic development, geographic information systems, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and transportation. He highlighted some projects in each of the major work areas. Projects will also be added over the year.

On the motion of MR. CUSHING, second by MS. BAUGHAN, the Work Program was accepted and recommended to the Full Commission. All were in favor.

3.5 Organizational Structure, Staff Position, and Recruitment Process

MR. LAWRENCE provided a brief overview of the current organizational chart then addressed two staffing topics. The first related to the creation of an “assistant/deputy” director and the other was the process to refill an upcoming retirement.

Establishing an assistant/deputy director would train a staff person to fill in when the Executive Director is out of office or fill in or replace them when they resign or retire. This would be an “add on” position not a standalone position since it would be for no more than 10 percent of time. The Senior GIS position will need to be refilled later this year as the person retires. The job description and salary rate need to be determined, and advertising would begin in late in summer. Both positions will be discussed at our next meeting.

3.6 Tiered Levy/Cap Discussion

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the handout showing Real Estate Values for each county along with current levy and various cap rate scenarios. From time to time, we review these options to determine if there is a need to make any changes to the current policy. 2024 county values range from \$15.8 Billion to \$1.8 Billion. That broad range was the impetus for establishing the Cap rate many years ago. The handout presents some additional scenarios, including a scenario that has a cap for the highest value county and another cap for the mid-value counties and maintaining the rest at the levy rate. There was no strong interest in any change at this time.

3.7 Closed Session – Executive Director Evaluation

A motion was made by MR. CUSHING, seconded by MS. MANSON, for the Committee to go into Closed Session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85. All were in favor by a roll call vote.

3.8 Reconvene into Open Session

The Executive Committee reconvened into open session on a motion by MR. CUSHING, second by MR. LAFONTAINE. All were in favor.

MR. MILLAN will review the evaluation with the Executive Director and place on file.

3.8 Announcements

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 30, 2025.

4.) ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

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

Minutes Approved on April 30, 2025
