

**Minutes of
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 13, 2014
Horizons Banquet Center, Tilden, WI**

Commissioners Present: Jess Miller, Ken Jost, Lee McIlquham, Florian Skwierczynski, Joe Waichulis, Chuck Rueth, Richard Creaser, Robert Walter, Steve Rasmussen, John Frank, William Johnson, Warren Nelson, Craig Moriak, Larry Weisenbeck, Agnes Ring

Commissioners Absent: Travis Turner, Mike Goettl, Norman Wesenberg, Kathy Clark, Gordy Steinhauer, Travis Schachtner

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Tobi LeMahieu, Ann Schell, Jason Duba

Visitors Present: Ruth Rosenow, Chippewa County Housing Authority; Scot Simpson, City of River Falls Administrator; Danielle Campeau, UW-River Falls; Mike Leisz, former RPC Commissioner

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. McIlquham welcomed Commissioners to Chippewa County and visitors introduced themselves.
3. **Presentation on River Falls Incubator Project:** Mr. Simpson explained the what, why, where, how, and when of the project. Partners in the endeavor include UW-River Falls, CVTC, State, Regional and County EDCs, City of River Falls, and other key CEOs and companies. Ms. Campeau, Center for Innovation and Business Development, emphasized the University's active support and commitment to business development. Ms. LeMahieu noted that the WCWRPC has been involved in this project since 2012. WCWRPC staff will writing the application with submission in early 2015.
4. **Update on Regional CDBG Housing Program:** Ms. Rosenow went over the history of the Chippewa County Housing Authority and the relationship of the Housing Authority to the WCWRPC. She noted the State of Wisconsin decided to change the way it distributed CDBG housing funds and notified counties that funds would only be disbursed to multi-county regions. WCWRPC stepped forward the helped the counties in its service area to begin a dialog about how a region might be formed. After much deliberation and discussion, the West Central Wisconsin CDBG Housing Region was formed and selected Chippewa County as their lead and the Chippewa County Housing Authority as their grant administrator. After an extensive application process and long delays for a review by the HUD, loans are now being made to the counties and the program is doing well.
5. **Action Items:**
Minutes of September 11, 2014 Commission Meeting: Mr. Rueth moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Ms. Ring; motion carried.

Approval of Disbursements: A motion was made by Mr. Rasmussen to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Jost; motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of 2014 Affirmative Action Plan & Progress Report: Ms. Nelson explained that this annual report is in accordance with Title VI regulations and a requirement of the Department of Commerce. Mr. Walter moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried. It was requested that percentages be included in staff composition.

Discussion/Approval of 2014 CEDS – Resolution 2014-06: Ms. LeMahieu noted that this resolution was to adopt the 2014 CEDS Annual Report for submission to EDA. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.

Health Insurance Changes: Ms. Nelson noted that the current health insurance provider increased by 25%. WCWRPC was notified of this increase just a couple of weeks prior and staff have been urgently trying to find alternatives before the deadline. After meetings with staff, Ms. Nelson is proposing that WCWRPC staff stay with its current provider for 2015, have an 85%-15% cost split, but have the flexibility to find another provider should an opportunity arise. Mr. Frank made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried. Suggestions included using an insurance broker to help find insurance options and possibly get an analysis of insurance use.

6. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson updated Commissioners on current and potential projects. She referred Commissioners to her handout for more detail.
7. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be January 8, 2015 in Barron County.
8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

At this time, a brief presentation and input session highlighting statewide transportation modeling was held. Representatives included Paul Chellevoid, from SRF, the consultant assisting with the project and Kim Tran, Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth