

**Minutes of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.
Rolling Oaks Restaurant & Lounge, Barron, WI**

Commissioners Present: Stan Buchanan, Louie Okey, Gary Taxdahl, Glen Sikorski, Peter Kaz, Allen Krause, Joe Waichulis, Tom Quinn, Steve Rasmussen, John Frank, Connie Russell, William Johnson, Joe Demulling, Tracy LaBlanc, Dan Hansen, Larry Weisenbeck

Commissioners Absent: Dave Eisenhuth, Steve Gerrish, Diane Morehouse, Melissa Janssen, Judy Achterhof

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Craig Johnson, Lindsay Olson, Landon Profaizer

Visitors Present: Jeff French, Barron County Administrator

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair John Frank.
2. **Welcome and Introduction of Commissioners and Guests:** Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Mr. French welcomed Commissioners to Barron County.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes of September 12, 2019 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Okey moved to accept the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Sikorski; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Rasmussen to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Hansen; motion carried.
5. **Staff Presentation – Chippewa Valley Innovation Center (CVIC) Market Study:** WCWRPC staff members Craig Johnson and Lindsay Olson gave a presentation on business incubators as part of a larger economic development strategy. The presentation focused on bigger picture trends and not on the specifics of the CVIC study. The information included a definition of business incubation, potential funding sources, challenges, models, strategies for success, etc. The presentation mirrored some of the same information that will be included in the upcoming incubator brownbag webinar scheduled for December 10, 2019.
6. **Resolution Adopting the 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report:** A requirement of WCWRPC receiving planning partnership funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is submittal of a CEDS Annual Report. Mr. Profaizer gave a presentation on the report which includes the evaluation of the economic health of the region, a WCWRPC work plan that identifies completed and on-going activities, and organizational accomplishments. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taxdahl; motion carried.
7. **Resolution Authorizing Commitment of Matching Funds for EDA 2020-2022 Planning Grant Application:** Ms. Nelson explained that adoption of a resolution authorizing commitment of matching funds for a planning grant request made to EDA for years 2020, 2021, and 2022 is required as part of the application packet. Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Okey; motion carried.
8. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education (EE) Project Agreements and Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WDNR) Lake Management Plan Implementation Grant Update:** Staff member Lindsay Olson stated that WCWRPC will be working with Clark and Eau Claire County Land Conservation Offices on specific project components under the recently awarded EPA EE project. There will also be an agreement with

UW-Madison Division of Extension for a portion of the work, but that agreement will need to be approved at a future date. For informational purposes Ms. Olson also updated the Commission on the WDNR Lake Management grant. The DNR project will work in coordination with the EPA project. Mr. Demulling moved to approve the agreements with Clark and Eau Claire County Land Conservation Offices, seconded by Mr. Krause; motion carried.

9. **Discussion Regarding the 2020 Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions (AWRPC) Summit and WCWRPC Outreach to Counties:** A survey was distributed to Commissioners requesting input for the upcoming June 2020 AWRPC summit.

Ms. Nelson asked Commissioners for feedback regarding different/most effective approaches to WCWRPC outreach to counties regarding services and value. Some suggestions included presentations to county committees (smaller venue than county board), articles in newspapers, timing of county board presentations (when agenda is void of pressing county issues), and one-on-one contact with new county administrators and county economic development corporation directors.

10. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson highlighted project, budget, and staffing activities.
11. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** To be determined.
12. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next Commission meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2020, in Polk County.
10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Demulling, seconded by Ms. Russell; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth