

**Minutes of the  
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)  
Thursday, January 12, 2017 Meeting - 10:00 a.m.  
Barley John's Brew Pub, New Richmond, WI**

**Commissioners Present:** Jess Miller, Jason Bergeron, Joe Waichulis, Richard Creaser, Robert Walter, Tom Quinn, John Frank, William Johnson, Craig Moriak, Warren Nelson, Larry Weisenbeck, Tom Coulter

**Commissioners Absent:** Ken Jost, Gary Taxdahl, Anson Albarado, Steve Gerrish, Chuck Rueth, Norman Wesenberg, Kathleen Clark, Gordy Steinhauer, Agnes Ring

**Staff Present:** Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Craig Johnson

**Visitors Present:** Roger Larson, St. Croix County Board Chair; Bill Rubin, St. Croix Economic Development Corporation; Mike Darrow, City Administrator for New Richmond; Dr. Logan Kelly, UW-River Falls Center of Economic Research; MaryAnn Lippert, Governor Walker's Northern Office; Scott Bolson, Senator Ron Johnson's Office; Jesse Garza, Representative Sean Duffy's Office

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Commissioners, staff, and guests were introduced.
3. **Minutes of November 10, 2016 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Weisenbeck moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Coulter; motion carried.
5. **St. Croix County Update Presentation:** Mr. Rubin updated Commissioners on the various activities/projects that were taking place in St. Croix County. Dr. Kelly presented a "St. Croix Valley Economic Dashboard" summary that noted employment levels, labor force, employment by sector, agricultural commodity prices, and housing statistics. He also explained the cycles of the economy, industrial growth, economic indicators, etc.
6. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson updated Commissioners on projects staff worked on in 2016, staffing updates, and an event the WCWRPC will be hosting. She also introduced Craig Johnson, the new hire for the Associate Planner position.
7. **Discussion/Approval of Final 2017 Budget:** Ms. Nelson explained the additional revenue in 2017 and the decrease in expenses. After some discussion, Mr. Coulter moved to approve the final budget, seconded by Mr. Johnson; motion carried. Mr. Nelson asked that the acronyms be spelled out on the disbursements record.
8. **City of Eau Claire and Eau Claire Area School District Agreement:** The City of Eau Claire and Eau Claire Area School District are requesting assistance in developing a Safe Routes to School Plan. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Frank; motion carried.
9. **Hudson School District Agreement:** The Hudson School District is requesting assistance in developing a Safe Routes to School Plan. Mr. Coulter moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Weisenbeck; motion carried.
10. **City of Altoona and School District of Altoona Agreement:** The City of Altoona and the School District of Altoona are requesting assistance in updating their 2008 Safe Routes to School Plan. Motion by Mr. Frank to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.
11. **Dunn County Large-Scale Livestock Facilities Study Agreement:** Mr. Quinn gave a background on the 5,000 head operation being proposed in Dunn County. Dunn County is requesting the WCWRPC to assist with facilitation of a Large-Scale Livestock Facilities Study. It was noted that a couple of meetings have taken place and WCWRPC has done an excellent job. The group was impressed with the detail of the outline for the study. Mr. Frank pointed out that this study was being done free-of-charge and is a perfect example of levy money projects. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.

12. **Resolution Designating WCWRPC Executive Director as the Authorized Representative for EDA Grant Applications and Awards:** Ms. Nelson explained that a previously approved resolution from 2014 did not specifically indicate that the Executive Director can also accept and sign grant awards. EDA has requested a new resolution be adopted with the additional wording for the 2017-2019 EDA planning grant contract period. Mr. Coulter moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Johnson; motion carried.
13. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** To be determined.
14. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** Due to a conflict with the Red Cedar River Conference being held March 9<sup>th</sup>, the next Commission meeting will be Friday, March 10, 2017 in Chippewa County.
15. **Adjournment:** Mr. Coulter moved to adjourn, seconded by Weisenbeck; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

At this time, Mr. Garza updated the group on activities of Congressman Sean Duffy's office.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth