

**Minutes of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) Meeting
Wednesday, January 23, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.
Fill-Inn Station, Chippewa Falls, WI**

Commissioners Present: Stan Buchanan, Louie Okey, Dave Eisenhuth, Steve Gerrish, Peter Kaz, Joe Waichulis, Allen Krause, Steve Rasmussen, John Frank, Connie Russell, Melissa Janssen, Joe Demulling, William Johnson, Larry Weisenbeck, Dan Hansen, Judy Achterhof

Commissioners Absent: Gary Taxdahl, Glen Sikorski, Tom Quinn, Diane Morehouse, Tracy LaBlanc

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Chris Straight

Visitors Present: Charlie Walker, Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation

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. Charlie Walker welcomed the group to Chippewa County and thanked Commissioners and staff for the support they provide to Chippewa County.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes of November 8, 2018 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Rasmussen moved to accept the minutes as distributed adding the words “as revised” to the second sentence under the Clark County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Agreement so that it reads “Mr. Okey moved to approve the agreement as revised...”; and to also add the words “as revised” to the third sentence under the Village of Turtle Lake Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Ordinance Update Agreement so that it reads: “Ms. Russell moved to approve the agreement as revised,...”; as proposed by Chair Frank, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Buchanan to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Okey; motion carried.
5. **Broadband Expansion Update Presentation and Discussion on Connect Americans Now:** Mr. Straight presented information on broadband expansion tools and the Connect Americans Now (CAN) effort. Interest in joining CAN was discussed. CAN is a group of citizens, local organizations, rural advocates, and innovators trying to eliminate the digital divide in rural America. Concerns were brought forward regarding lobbying interests and would the Commission be supporting a lobbying or advocacy organization. After further discussion, staff was directed to gather more information and possibly have a resolution to consider at the next meeting or bring it before the Executive Committee to review first.
6. **Discussion/Approval of 2019 Work Program and Budget:** Ms. Nelson noted that a preliminary 2019 budget was approved by the Commission in September of 2018. A final 2019 Work Program and Budget is now being presented for review and approval. Ms. Nelson discussed program activities, money allocated to the program areas, and sources of revenue. Mr. Okey moved to approve the 2019 Work Program and Budget, seconded by Mr. Hansen; motion carried.
7. **Regional Business Fund, Inc. Board Appointment:** The Commission makes an appointment to the Regional Business Fund, Inc. Board of Directors every three years. The previous appointment has served three terms and is not eligible for re-appointment. Therefore, Ms. Nelson is recommending the appointment of Dan Lytle as the replacement. She gave a brief overview of Mr. Lytle’s background and education. Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the appointment of Dan Lytle, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried.
8. **Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Lake Protection/Lake Management Plan Implementation Grant Application Submittal:** Staff are requesting submittal approval for a

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Protection/Lake Management Plan Implementation Grant Application. Mr. Straight explained that the requested funds will be used to implement public education and citizen engagement activities as recommended in the document *Healthy Soils & Healthy Waters: A Community Strategy for the Eau Claire River Watershed*. Ms. Russell moved to approve the submittal of the grant application, seconded by Mr. Okey; motion carried.

9. **Altoona School District Safe Routes to School Plan Implementation Agreement:** The school district is requesting assistance with implementation activities identified in their Safe Routes to School Plan. Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Johnson; motion carried.
10. **Chippewa Falls Area United School District Safe Routes to School Plan Implementation Agreement:** The school district is requesting assistance with implementation activities identified in their Safe Routes to School Plan. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Hansen; motion carried.
11. **Eau Claire Area School District Safe Routes to School Plan Implementation Agreement:** The school district is requesting assistance with implementation activities identified in their Safe Routes to School Plan. Motion by Mr. Kaz to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Buchanan; motion carried.
12. **Town of Arthur Livestock Facilities Licensing Ordinance Agreement:** The Town of Arthur in Chippewa County has requested assistance in developing a Livestock Facilities Licensing Ordinance. Discussion took place regarding CAFO regulations and appropriate roles of the Town, County, and state agencies. Mr. Demulling moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Kaz; 14 ayes-2 nays; motion carried.
13. **Barron County FEMA Funded Safe Room Administration Agreement:** Barron County received funding assistance for the construction of two community safe rooms in response to tornadoes that took place in the summer of 2017. Staff will be assisting the county with meeting FEMA administrative requirements tied to the project. Mr. Okey moved to approve the agreement; seconded by Mr. Demulling; motion carried.
14. **Chippewa Falls Shared Ride Taxi Administration Agreement:** The City of Chippewa Falls is requesting continued assistance with administering the state and federal funding requirements tied to the community's shared ride taxi program. Motion by Mr. Gerrish to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried.
15. **Chippewa Valley Innovation Center (CVIC) Market Study Agreement:** CVIC is requesting assistance in completing a market study for the facility and its incubation services. Mr. Gerrish noted that he is on the Board of Directors for CVIC and they approved the agreement this morning. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried with Mr. Gerrish abstaining.
16. **Neillsville Economic Impact Analysis Agreement:** Memorial Medical Center is in the process of developing a new campus in the Town of Pine Valley in Clark County. The City of Neillsville has requested WCWRPC to prepare an Economic Impact Analysis relating to the facility. The analysis will be utilized by the city and partner entities in planning for the future. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Hansen; motion carried.

17. **Dunn County Economic Development Corporation Commute to Careers Agreement:** The Dunn County Economic Development Corporation, in coordination with Dunn County Transit, received funding to establish employee transportation services to the Stout Technology and Business Park and the Menomonie Industrial Park. The EDC is requesting assistance with the development of an initial service model. Mr. Kaz moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Rasmussen; motion carried.
18. **Northwest Regional Planning Commission Placemaking Technical and Capacity Building Support Agreement:** Northwest Regional Planning Commission is requesting assistance in conducting a placemaking exercise in their region. This assistance will provide training to NWRPC staff on how to conduct placemaking exercises to communities in their service area in the future. Mr. Kaz moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Okey; motion carried. It was suggested that a Commissioner placemaking exercise take place this summer to explain what placemaking is and what it entails. A placemaking exercise a couple of years ago for Commissioners proved highly educational, fun, and informative.
19. **Rain to Rivers Storm Water Outreach Coordinator Agreement:** Rain to Rivers is seeking to contract with WCWRPC to staff their Storm Water Outreach Coordinator position. The position will assist with public education and outreach activities. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Ms. Russell; motion carried.
20. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson highlighted project, budget, and staffing activities. She noted that Mr. Straight had been presented with a Water Quality Leadership award.
21. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** To be determined.
22. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next Commission meeting is FRIDAY, March 8, 2019, in Dunn County.
10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried. The meeting adjourned by 12:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth