

**Minutes of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
Friday, March 11, 2016 Meeting - 10:00 a.m.
Quillen's Big Bear Restaurant, Mikana, WI**

Commissioners Present: Jess Miller, Ken Jost, Florian Skwierczynski, Mike Goettl, Norman Wesenberg, Joe Waichulis, Richard Creaser, Robert Walter, Kathy Clark, Gordy Steinhauer, John Frank, William Johnson, Craig Moriak, Warren Nelson, Agnes Ring, Larry Weisenbeck

Commissioners Absent: Travis Turner, Lee McIlquham, Charles Rueth, Steve Rasmussen, Travis Schachtner

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Chris Straight, Beth Waldhart

Visitors Present: Dave Armstrong, Barron County EDC; Jon Sleik, Chair, Town of Cedar Lake; Jeff French, Barron County Administrator; Louie Okey, Barron County Board

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Commissioners and guests were introduced. The guests welcomed Commissioners to Barron County and gave brief presentations on County activities.
3. **Minutes of January 14, 2016 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Waichulis moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Walter; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the disbursements, seconded by Ms. Clark; motion carried.
5. **Presentation on the Broadband & Placemaking:** WCWRPC staff member Chris Straight gave a presentation on broadband. He provided a broadband definition and talked about the importance of broadband for quality of life, services currently offered by providers, role WCWRPC has been playing, and funding opportunities for expansion.

Mr. Straight also provided a brief presentation on placemaking activities being undertaken by WCWRPC. Barron County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Dave Armstrong then talked about that work specific to Barron County communities. Placemaking workshops have taken place in Barron, Cumberland, and Rice Lake. He went over the goals that were achieved, committees formed, and plans for future projects. He listed several additional communities in Barron County that intend to conduct workshops in the future.

6. **Presentation on Regional Business Fund, Inc.:** Ms. Waldhart updated Commissioners on the status of the Regional Business Fund (RBF). She noted the wide support that has been received and the hard work that has taken place. At RBF board meetings they have discussed strategies, how to make the money work harder, and getting the word out that the fund is up and running.
7. **Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Agreement:** Executive Director Lynn Nelson stated that Polk County is requesting assistance in updating the Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The update will assist the County in maintaining FEMA mitigation grant eligibility. Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.
8. **Barron County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Agreement:** Ms. Nelson indicated that Barron County is requesting assistance in updating the Barron County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The update will assist the County in maintaining FEMA mitigation grant eligibility. Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.
9. **St. Croix County Transit Feasibility Plan Agreement:** Ms. Nelson explained that St. Croix County is requesting assistance with completion of a Transit Feasibility Plan. The plan will assist in determining transit options within the County and also identify connections to regional transit services. Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.

10. **Contract Extensions:**

- Technology Enterprise Fund (TEF) Fund Sub-Grant Management Agreement with RBF, Inc.
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) Fund Sub-Grant Management Agreement with RBF, Inc.
- Consolidated Fund Management Agreement with RBF, Inc.

These agreements are yearly extensions of management services to provide for the administration of the listed funds. Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the extensions, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.

11. **Resolution 2016-03 Certifying EDA Revolving Loan Fund Strategy and Plan:** Ms. Nelson noted that this is a yearly submittal provided to EDA certifying that revolving loan fund plans, policies, and procedures are consistent with and supportive of the region and its economy. Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.
12. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson showed the group a video of a police officer on his daily route in an unexpected way. The purpose was to encourage all of us to think outside the box when considering ways that we do can do business. As government changes, and we all have new and expanded roles, this is more important now than ever. She also updated Commissioners on project, budget, and staffing activities.
13. **Discussion Regarding Reorganization of Cooperative Extension:** This item was placed on the agenda at the request of a Commissioner. In light of modifications to be incurred at the County level regarding UW-Extension services, Commissioners were interested in hearing about how other Counties were approaching the changes. Commissioners shared county specific information and their thoughts on how the changes have been handled. Commissioners had mixed feelings and concerns regarding the changes.
14. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** The next Executive Committee meeting will be on April 14, 2016 at the WCWRPC offices.
15. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, May 12, 2016 in Polk County.
16. **Adjournment:** Mr. Goettl made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wesenberg; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth