

**Minutes of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) Meeting
Friday March 9, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area, Merrillan, WI**

Commissioners Present: Jess Miller, Anson Albarado, Joe Waichulis, Chuck Rueth, Richard Creaser, Diane Morehouse, John Frank, Gordy Steinhauer, William Johnson, Joe Demulling, Tracy LaBlanc, Larry Weisenbeck, Judy Achterhof

Commissioners Absent: Ken Jost, Gary Taxdahl, Jason Bergeron, Steve Gerrish, Tom Quinn, Kathleen Clark, Tom Coulter

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Craig Johnson

Visitors Present: Sheila Nyberg – Clark County Economic Development Corporation; Peter Kaz – Clark County Economic Development Corporation; Rick Dailey, Marcus Aumann, Daryn Horn – Clark County Forestry & Parks Dept.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice-Chair John Frank in the absence of Chair Jess Miller.
2. **Welcome and Introduction of Commissioners and Guests:** Commissioners and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Waichulis welcomed Commissioners to Clark County. A moment of silence was given to Norman “Casey” Wesenberg, a Commissioner who had recently passed away and represented Clark County.

At this time, Chair Miller arrived at the meeting.

3. **Review and Approve Minutes of January 11, 2018 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Johnson moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Frank.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Rueth to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried.
5. **2017 in Review/2018 Preview/Director’s Report:** Ms. Nelson highlighted some of the many projects completed during 2017 and updated Commissioners on projects/activities already started/upcoming in 2018.
6. **Staff Report – Craig Johnson:** Mr. Johnson reported on a survey that WCWRPC conducted last fall regarding housing issues in the region. Surveys were sent to county/community contacts, large employers, and regional entities. He summarized the results of the survey. He also discussed other initiatives being used to address housing issues (locally/regionally).
7. **Submittal of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education (EE) Grant Application:** WCWRPC staff are proposing to submit an EPA EE application. The application will request funding to implement activities recommended in the Eau Claire River Watershed Strategy. Mr. Albarado moved to approve the submittal of the application, seconded by Mr. Frank; motion carried.
8. **Revolving Loan Fund Administration Services Agreement with Pierce County:** In early 2017 WCWRPC entered into an agreement with Pierce County to provide revolving loan fund assistance/administration for the County’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) business revolving loan fund portfolio. At the time of WCWRPC agreeing to provide this assistance Pierce County indicated that the servicing would be for existing loans only, no new loans would be initiated. Pierce County would now like to change direction and begin to make new loans from their pool of money. Unfortunately, WCWRPC does not have adequate staff time

available to accommodate this change. Termination of the RPC agreement with Pierce County is therefore being proposed. Pierce County will seek assistance from another suitable organization. Mr. Rueth moved to approve the termination of the agreement, seconded by Mr. Johnson; motion carried.

9. **Contract Extensions:** Ms. Nelson noted that these agreements are for yearly extensions of management services to provide the administration of the Technology Enterprise Fund (TEF), Economic Development Administration (EDA) Fund, and Consolidated Fund with the Regional Business Fund, Inc. (RBF).

Mr. Waichulis moved to approve the TEF contract extension, seconded by Mr. Albarado; motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the EDA fund contract extension, seconded by Mr. Rueth; motion carried.

Mr. Frank moved to approve the Consolidated Fund contract extension; seconded by Mr. Demulling; motion carried.

10. **Resolution 2018-01 Certifying Economic Development Administration (EDA) Revolving Loan Fund Strategy and Plan:** 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. Mr. Waichulis moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Frank; motion carried.

11. **Clark County Updates:** Rick Dailey, Marcus Aumann, and Daryn Horn gave a report on the history, activities, and operations of the Bruce Mound Winter Recreation Area.

Shiela Nyberg and Peter Kaz gave an update on the activities of the Clark County Economic Development Corporation.

12. **Discover Wisconsin Discussion:** Mr. Rueth opened the discussion with the difficulties Clark County is having retaining/recruiting their workforce. Other counties are having similar struggles. He was hoping the group would consider looking cooperatively at a Discover Wisconsin promotion as a way to attract workers. Mr. Frank gave some suggestions of using the UW system to reach students to stay in or come to the region for work/play/family. After some discussion, it was proposed that this item be followed-up at the May meeting, with possibly a conversation with Discover Wisconsin and/or Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) as to what is currently being done or could be worked on cooperatively.

13. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** The Executive Committee will be meeting at the WCWRPC offices in Eau Claire on Monday, April 16, 2018.

14. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, May 10, 2018 in St. Croix County.

15. **Adjournment:** Mr. Albarado moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.