

**Minutes of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.
Turtleback Golf Course, Rice Lake, WI**

Commissioners Present: Jess Miller, Ken Jost, Gary Taxdahl, Anson Albarado, Jason Bergeron, Steve Gerrish, Joe Waichulis, Chuck Rueth, Norman Wesenberg, Richard Creaser, Robert Walter, John Frank, Kathleen Clark, Gordy Steinhauer, William Johnson, Joe Demulling, Tracy LaBlanc, Larry Weisenbeck, Tom Coulter, Agnes Ring

Commissioners Absent: Tom Quinn

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Kim Zimmerman, Landon Profaizer

Visitors Present: Dan Baumann, Mike Rogney, and Mark Stephenson, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources; Kim Shult, Baker Tilly; Jeff French, Barron County Administrator; Tony Roder and Doug Clary, Chippewa County Planning & Zoning; Joe Ayers and Alex Blackburn, St. Croix County Community Development Dept.; Emily Lund, Pierce County Land Management; Bob Colson and Ben Bublitz, Dunn County Planning & Zoning; Tim Anderson, Polk County Planner; Brian Duell, Clark County Zoning Administrator; Janet Clark, Senator Ron Johnson's Office

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. French welcomed Commissioners to Barron County. He provided an update on various new developments occurring in the County. He also gave kudos to the Strong Towns event held in April sponsored by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. A formal introduction was made for Tracy LaBlanc and Joe Demulling, two new Commissioners representing Polk County.
3. **Minutes of March 10, 2017 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Walter moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Jost; motion carried. Mr. Taxdahl asked if the topic of transporting of mentally disabled residents would be covered at this meeting. Ms. Nelson indicated that today's agenda was not able to accommodate two regional discussion topics so the transporting agenda item would be postponed until a future meeting.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Rueth to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Albarado; motion carried.
5. **Presentation & Discussion: Inaccuracy of FEMA Floodplain Maps in Many Counties – What are the options:** Ms. Nelson introduced Mr. Baumann, Mr. Rogney and Mr. Stephenson from the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. They were asked to attend this meeting to discuss and explore any individual or collective actions that could be taken to update and improve FEMA floodplain maps. Many counties have encountered numerous concerns regarding the accuracy of the maps and complaints from landowners and developers regarding the cost and time to modify a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Mr. Rogney went over what flood insurance entails and the requirements of the program. National, State, and Local roles were explained. They further described steps to be taken to modify a FIRM, fees, and exemptions. Also noted were the different methods used to create the maps. Currently, one method being used is Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR). It has proven to be more accurate. After much discussion during and following the presentation, Ms. Ring moved to set in motion for the region/counties to request faster approval of map modifications, seconded by Ms. Clark. After further discussion, this motion was tabled and Ms. Nelson was asked to visit this issue and find the best course of action on the subject – either through a resolution or some other directive. Mr. Frank encouraged the group to engage the support of both state and national representatives when approaching FEMA.
6. **Presentation of 2016 Audit by Baker Tilly:** Due to time constraints, Ms. Shult's presentation was moved up. Ms. Shult presented the results of the 2016 audit. After discussion on potential options for addressing the noted material weaknesses Mr. Rueth moved to approve the audit as presented, seconded by Mr. Walter; motion carried.
7. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson updated Commissioners on current project, budget, and staffing activities. She pointed out possible changes regarding federal funding sources.

8. **Annual Levy for 2018 Calendar Year:** Ms. Nelson presented options for the annual levy amount to be charged to member counties for the 2018 calendar year. Ms. Ring made a motion to accept Option #5 with a 2% increase from 2017, seconded by Mr. Coulter. Mr. Frank amended the motion from Option #5 to Option #8, seconded by Mr. Taxdahl; 16 ayes to amend motion, 4 opposed. Discussion followed regarding the many ways levy monies are used. Some Commissioners felt the 2% increase was small compared to increased costs faced by the organization and that Option #8 would more closely align to actual changes in the budget. Other factors discussed were uncertainty of federal funding and the potential of increased health insurance costs. Another vote to approve the amended motion from Option #5 to Option #8; 17 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion carried.
9. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** To be determined.
10. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next full Commission will be meeting July 13, 2017 in Polk County.
11. **Adjournment:** Mr. Albarado moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Coulter; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth