

**Minutes of the  
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)  
Thursday, May 12, 2016 Meeting - 10:00 a.m.  
Lucky's Bar & Grill, Clear Lake, WI**

**Commissioners Present:** Jess Miller, Ken Jost, Gary Taxdahl, Anson Albarado, Jason Bergeron, Steve Gerrish, Chuck Rueth, Norman Wesenberg, Joe Waichulis, Richard Creaser, Tom Quinn, Kathy Clark, Gordy Steinhauer, John Frank, William Johnson, Warren Nelson, Agnes Ring, Larry Weisenbeck, Roger Larson

**Commissioners Absent:** Robert Walter, Craig Moriak

**Staff Present:** Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Eric Anderson

**Visitors Present:** Chris Zeman, Senator Ron Johnson's Office

1. **Call to Order:** In the absence of Chair and Vice-Chair, Mr. Johnson was unanimously elected to Chair the meeting until the arrival of Chairperson Miller. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Commissioners and guests were introduced. It was noted that Roger Larson from St. Croix County was attending as a guest. St. Croix County will be making its Commission appointment (in addition to Agnes Ring and Larry Weisenbeck) at the next County Board meeting.
3. **Minutes of March 11, 2016 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Waichulis moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Ms. Clark; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Weisenbeck to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Nelson; motion carried.
5. **WCWRPC – Who We Are and What We Do:** Ms. Nelson gave an overview of the WCWRPC. The presentation was meant to be an orientation for the six new members and a review/input session for returning Commissioners. A part two of the orientation will take place at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Items covered included geographic coverage, governance, staffing, goals, program areas, revenues, and role of Commissioners. At the end of the presentation, Ms. Nelson asked the following questions of the Commissioners followed by their comments:

*What are the strengths of the Regional Planning Commission?*

*Responses:*

- Leadership – staff and organization
- Staff – talent/education
- Professionalism of staff
- Contacts in the region
- Connections with local, state, and federal agencies
- Provide opportunity for regional discussions
- Availability/access

*What are the weaknesses of the Regional Planning Commission?*

*Responses:*

- Marketing awareness
- Access to all communities
- Need to promote more
- More public relations to small communities
- More information available for people looking for it

*Are there opportunities/needs we are missing that we're currently not filling regionally or in your counties?*

*Responses:*

- *Continue to use the county department heads as resources*
- Coverage of services previously provided by UW Extension (training/education/services) that may not be available under the new UW Extension model.
- Tourism – regional network (trail use – ATVs/UTVs)
- The decline in daycare providers – who is going to replace them
- Coverage of regional issues in white papers or studies

- Identify issues related to aging population

At 10:20 a.m., Chairperson Miller and Mr. Jost arrived at the meeting.

- 6. Annual Levy for 2017 Calendar Year:** Ms. Nelson presented options for the annual levy amount to be charged to member counties for the 2017 calendar year. Included in meeting materials was how the levy was collected and used over an eight year period and local levy breakdown tables by county for the past eight years. After a brief discussion, Mr. Rueth moved to approve Option 1, seconded by Mr. Jost; motion carried.
- 7. Overview of Nominating and Election Process for WCWRPC Officers and Executive Committee Members:** Ms. Nelson presented the process to be used in nominating and electing officers and Executive Committee members. Chuck Rueth, Agnes Ring, and Gordy Steinhauer were appointed to the Nominating Committee. Mr. Rueth was appointed Chair.

BREAK – Nominating Committee met during this time.

- 8. Election of WCWRPC Officers and Executive Committee Members:** Mr. Rueth presented the option of Jess Miller (Barron County) as Chair, John Frank (Eau Claire County) as Vice-Chair, and Rich Creaser (Dunn County) as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Waichulis moved to accept and close any further nominations, seconded by Mr. Wesenberg; motion carried.  
  
Jason Bergeron (Chippewa County), Joe Waichulis (Clark County), William Johnson (Polk County), and Larry Weisenbeck (St. Croix County) were appointed as members to the Executive Committee. Motion made by Mr. Rueth to approve, seconded by Mr. Albarado; motion carried.
- 9. City of Greenwood Community Development Block Grant Survey Agreement:** The City of Greenwood is seeking assistance in preparing, distributing, and analyzing a CDBG household survey. Motion by Mr. Rueth to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Larson; motion carried.
- 10. City of River Falls Transit System Administrative Agreement:** The City of River Falls is seeking administrative assistance from WCWRPC for the community's shared ride taxi program. Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Nelson; motion carried.
- 11. Sub Agreements for the Red Cedar Basin Assessment for Water Quality Improvements Project:** Ms. Nelson noted that the sub-agreements are not ready at this time. They will be on the agenda for the July meeting.
- 12. Approval of the Urbanized Area Boundary and Functional Classification System near Houlton, WI:** Ms. Nelson explained that the Twin Cities Urbanized Area boundary extended across the St. Croix River according to the 2010 Census. This new boundary included a small area near Houlton, WI. WisDOT is requesting an approval of the urbanized area boundary and the proposed functional classification of the roads within the boundary. Ms. Ring, who is on the St. Croix County Board, had not heard of this request and would like to postpone this item until the June Executive Committee or the July Commission meeting to get more input and requested that Ann Schell from the WCWRPC staff be present for questions. Ms. Ring moved to postpone this item until June or July, seconded by Mr. Johnson; motion carried.
- 13. Presentation on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – Eric Anderson:** Mr. Anderson provided an update on current and future Safe Route to School projects.
- 14. Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** The next Executive Committee meeting will be on June 9, 2016 at the WCWRPC offices.
- 15. Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, July 14, 2016 in Eau Claire County.
- 16. Adjournment:** Mr. Albarado made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Waichulis; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.