

**Minutes of
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 8, 2014
The Neighbors of Dunn County, Menomonie, WI**

Commissioners Present: Jess Miller, Ken Jost, Lee McIlquham, Mike Goettl, Chuck Rueth, Joe Waichulis, Norman Wesenberg, Richard Creaser, Steven Rasmussen, Robert Walter, Kathy Clark, John Frank, Gordy Steinhauer, William Johnson, Warren Nelson, Craig Moriak, Larry Weisenbeck, Travis Schachtner

Commissioners Absent: Florian Skwierczynski, Agnes Ring

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Beth Waldhart, Kim Zimmerman

Visitors Present: Paul Delong, Health Care Center Committee Chair; Jim Murray, Baker Tilly; Charles Sorensen, UW-Stout Chancellor; Doug Mell, UW-Stout Communications & External Relations

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Delong welcomed the Commissioners and gave a brief presentation regarding the new facility.
3. **Action Items:**
Minutes of March 14, 2014 Commission Meeting: Mr. Waichulis moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Rasmussen; motion carried.

Approval of Disbursements: A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the disbursements, seconded by Mr. Rueth; motion carried.

Presentation of 2013 Audit: Mr. Murray went over highlights of the 2013 audit. He noted that any material weaknesses cited were minor and could only be remedied by hiring additional staff. This problem is common among small government operations. He also noted new standards for reporting requirements for pensions. Mr. Nelson brought up the amount of the life insurance fringe benefit. Mr. Murray stated that it is an error and would get back with the corrected amount. After some discussion, Mr. Weisenbeck moved to approve the 2013 audit, seconded by Ms. Clark; motion carried.

Appointment of Nominating Committee for Officers and Executive Committee: The representatives from Clark and Dunn Counties were appointed as Nominating Committee. They will meet at the break and present their selections.

4. **Presentation by Lynn Nelson – Orientation to WCWRPC:** Ms. Nelson gave a brief presentation on the history, funding, operations, and financing of the WCWRPC.
5. **Presentation by Beth Waldhart – Overview and Update on the Regional Business Fund, Inc.:** Ms. Waldhart also reported on the operations and current status of the RBF, Inc.
6. **WCWRPC Budget Review/Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson updated the Commissioners on current plans to improve outreach to counties/communities and better financial tracking. She will also be meeting with all County Boards in the next few months. 2014 secured and potential contracts were reviews, as were potential contracts for 2015-2017.

At this time, Mr. Jost introduced Chancellor Charles Sorensen from UW-Stout who is retiring. Mr. Jost has known the Chancellor for many years and asked him to say a few words to the Commissioners. Chancellor Sorensen gave a brief overview of his 26 years with UW-Stout. Chancellor Sorensen was given a standing ovation and thanked for his dedication and service.

7. **Action Items (continued)**

Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee submitted the following names for Executive Committee: Jess Miller (Barron County), Lee McIlquham (Chippewa County), Joe Waichulis (Clark County), Rich Creaser (Dunn County), Kathy Clark (Eau Claire County), William Johnson (Polk County), and Larry Weisenbeck (St. Croix County). Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the Committees' list, seconded by Mr. Rueth; motion carried.

The following names were submitted for officers: Jess Miller, Chair; Lee McIlquham, Vice Chair; and Rich Creaser, Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Jost moved to approve the list of officers, seconded by Mr. Walter; motion carried.

Annual Levy for 2015 Calendar Year – Analysis and Approval: Ms. Nelson went over the levy options, which included amounts with 1-6% increases. She also noted how the levy has been used over the last six years. After some discussion, noting that the Commission has not seen an increase in levy contributions since 2006, Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve Option 5, seconded by Mr. Jost; motion denied. Upon further discussion, the Commissioners did see a need for an increase in the levy. Mr. Johnson moved to approved Option 4, seconded by Mr. Wauchulis; motion carried with one opposed.

Letter of Support for the Heritage Initiative: Ms. Nelson explained that the letter states support for the feasibility study and proposed designation of the *North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area*. This designation will strengthen the area's unique identity tied to the St. Croix River. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the letter, seconded by Mr. Rueth; motion carried.

Village of Curtiss Contract for CDBG PF Application Preparation: Ms. Nelson noted that Curtiss is seeking assistance in preparation an application for a new fire station. The cost for the service is \$4,000. Mr. Rueth moved to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Rasmussen; motion carried.

Village of New Auburn Contract for CDBG PF Application Preparation: Ms. Nelson stated that New Auburn is also looking to build a new fire station. The cost for the application preparation is \$4,000. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the contract, Mr. Walter seconded; motion carried.

Town of Hendren Contract for CDBG PFED Application: Ms. Nelson explained that the contract would benefit North Hendren Dairy. The dairy is expanding and needs road improvements. The cost of the application preparation is \$4,000. Mr. Rueth moved to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Wauchulis; motion carried.

City of Cumberland Contract for Outdoor Recreation Plan Update: Ms. Nelson noted the cost for the update will be \$5,000. Motion by Mr. Jost to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Walter; motion carried.

Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce Contract for Placemaking Exercise: The Chamber of Commerce is seeking assistance to perform a placemaking exercise in downtown Rice Lake and other key locations. The cost for this service is \$5,000. Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Schachtner; motion carried.

City of Augusta Contract for CDBG PF Application Preparation: The City is seeking assistance for new infrastructure improvements benefitting a nursing home. The cost for this service is \$4,000. Ms. Clark moved to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Wauchulis; motion carried.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be July 10, 2014 in Clark County. The Executive Committee meeting will be June 12th and will include an orientation for new Commissioners.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth