

**Minutes of
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 10, 2014
Thorp Senior Center, Thorp, WI**

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

Commissioners Absent: Mike Goettl, Charles Rueth, Steve Rasmussen, Craig Moriak, Travis Schachtner

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Chris Straight, Kim Zimmerman

Visitors Present: Wayne Hendrickson, Clark County Board Chair; Randy Reeg, City of Thorp Administrator; Scott Bolstad, Senator Ron Johnson's Office

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. Reeg welcomed the Commissioners to Clark County and the City of Thorp. Mr. Bolstad gave a brief overview of the Senator's activities.
3. **Action Items:**

Minutes of May 8, 2014 Commission Meeting: Mr. Waichulis moved to accept the minutes as distributed; seconded by Mr. Walter; motion carried.

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

Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Area Bike Map Contract: Ms. Nelson noted that this contract was for the preparation and printing of a bicycle map for the metropolitan planning area. Ms. Ring moved to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Turner; motion carried.
4. **2014/2015 Budget Review and Discussion:** Ms. Nelson went over the revenues noting the EDA and WisDOT amounts are set. She also discussed the secured contractual revenues and potential revenues for 2014 and 2015. There would be no big changes in the program areas for 2015. The Commissioners were appreciative of the update.
5. **Innovation Foundation of Western Wisconsin Partnership Discussion:** Ms. Nelson distributed a "collaboration overview" summary per direction from the WCWRPC, RBF, and IFWW boards. This overview would aid in determining practical ways to explore the potential for a more involved partnership between the organizations. Ms. Nelson summarized the budgets, services, service area, and staff of the three organizations and how they can complement each other. Commissioners asked about the stability of the IFWW budget and if the hourly contract amount that is proposed is too low. Ms. Ring, who is on the IFWW board, noted that the budget is dependent on various donations, contributors, and grants, but has been successful in achieving their goals. Mr. William moved to bring this item before the Executive Committee next month for further discussion, seconded by Mr. Frank; motion carried.
6. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson reviewed the accomplishments of the WCWRPC and staff to date since starting her position as Executive Director. She noted that staff presentations have been made to all the County Boards and plans to continue this next year. Further goals are to improve communications with various organizations in the region, put together an informational packet for Commissioners, and engage the Commissioners more in promoting the WCWRPC.
7. **Placemaking Exercise with Chris Straight:** Mr. Straight began his presentation explaining the placemaking process, what is placemaking, what are public places, and why placemake. Mr. Straight also noted that the WCWRPC received a Wisconsin American Planning Association award for their "Placemaking Haymarket Plaza" project in downtown Eau Claire. After the presentation, Commissioners were then divided into groups to participate in a placemaking exercise in downtown Thorp where they were to identify opportunities in various "nodes". Commissioners thought the exercise was interesting and informative.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be September 11, 2014 in St. Croix County. The Executive Committee meeting will be August 14th.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth