

**Minutes of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.
RCU Corporate Center, Eau Claire, WI**

Commissioners Present: Stan Buchanan, Louie Okey, Gary Taxdahl, Dave Eisenhuth, Glen Sikorski, Peter Kaz, Allen Krause, Joe Waichulis, Diane Morehouse, Steve Rasmussen, John Frank, Melissa Janssen, Connie Russell, William Johnson, Judy Achterhof, Dan Hansen, Larry Weisenbeck

Commissioners Absent: Steve Gerrish, Tom Quinn, Joe Demulling, Tracy LaBlanc

Staff Present: Lynn Nelson, Lisa Ruth, Chris Straight, Susan Badtke, Tobi LeMahieu, Heidi Biesterveld

Visitors Present: Brandon Riechers, RCU President & CEO

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair John Frank.
2. **Welcome and Introduction of Commissioners and Guests:** Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Riechers welcomed Commissioners to the RCU corporate offices and highlighted the positive changes happening in downtown Eau Claire.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes of July 11, 2019 Commission Meeting:** Mr. Okey moved to accept the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Mr. Kaz to approve the disbursements, seconded by Ms. Morehouse; motion carried.
5. **Housing Update Presentation:** Mr. Straight and Ms. Badtke gave a presentation on the findings of the Barron County Housing Study. They described the study process and key results. The presentation also included information on supply trends, affordability, housing preferences, demand, development costs, financing sources, and priorities.
6. **Introduction of New Lending Specialist and Regional Business Fund, Inc./Disaster Recovery Microloan Program Updates:** Ms. Biesterveld introduced herself and gave a brief background on her qualifications. Ms. LeMahieu updated Commissioners on the Regional Business Fund and the Disaster Recovery Microloan Program.
7. **2020 Preliminary Budget Approval:** Ms. Nelson explained some minor changes to the budget. Mr. Okey moved to approve the preliminary budget as presented, seconded by Mr. Kaz; motion carried.
8. **City of Hudson Specialized Transit Service Development Plan Agreement:** The City of Hudson is requesting assistance in preparing a Specialized Transit Service Development Plan. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by Mr. Rasmussen; motion carried.
9. **Chippewa Valley Innovation Center Loan Pool Administration Assistance Agreement:** The Innovation Center is asking for assistance in administering a tenant loan pool. This is an update to an ongoing agreement that is already in place. Mr. Kaz moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Hansen; motion carried.
10. **Kinni Watershed Partnership Discussion:** The Kinni Watershed Partnership is exploring the possibility of staff assistance in implementing key strategic action plan items. After some

discussion, it was agreed to meet with the group to discuss potential assistance the RPC could provide. Since a portion of this watershed is in Pierce County, it was suggested that the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, the organization overseeing the project, invite the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to provide support to this endeavor.

11. **Director's Report:** Ms. Nelson highlighted project, budget, and staffing activities.
12. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** To be determined.
13. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** The next Commission meeting is Thursday, November 14, 2019, in Barron County.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Kaz, seconded by Mr. Sikorski; motion carried.

Prepared by: Lisa K. Ruth