

Public Meeting Notice

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)

10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 12, 2024

Clark County Highway Department

511 W South St, Loyal, WI 54446

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** - Chair John Frank
2. **Welcome and Introduction of Commissioners and Guests** - Frank
3. **Review and Approve Minutes of July 11, 2024, Commission Meeting** - Frank
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements** - Frank
5. **2025 Preliminary Budget Approval** – Executive Director Scott Allen/Frank
Background: As per State Statute, WCWRPC must adopt a preliminary budget for the coming year prior to October 1st of the current year.
Potential Action: Review and approve the 2025 preliminary budget.
6. **Affirm Adoption of 2025 Rural Transportation Work Program through the Approval of the 2025 Preliminary Budget** – Allen/Frank
Background: The Rural Transportation Work Program (RTWP) highlights potential 2025 transportation related projects and associated work in the seven-county region, not including the Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls urban area. These tasks include working on different projects with communities, counties, State of Wisconsin, Federal government, and/or other regional partners. The types of projects can include all modes of transportation. The WCWRPC is required to adopt the RTWP every year, which is typically done through the process of adopting the preliminary budget.
Potential Action: Affirm the adoption of the 2025 RTWP as reflected in the 2025 Preliminary Budget Approval.
7. **Dunn County Comprehensive Plan Update Agreement** – Allen/Frank
Background: Dunn County is requesting assistance from WCWRPC with the completion of an update to the Dunn County Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2009 and updated in 2016), including an update to the Dunn County Farmland Preservation Plan.
Potential Action: Review and approve the agreement.

- 8. Chippewa County Comprehensive Plan Update Agreement – Allen/Frank**
Background: Chippewa County is requesting assistance from WCWRPC with the completion of an update to the Chippewa County Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2010), including an update to the Chippewa County Farmland Preservation Plan.
Potential Action: Review and approve the agreement.
- 9. Approval of Agreements with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) and Bluebird Consulting to Provide Services on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) to Complete a Regional Outdoor Recreation Plan – Allen/Frank**
A. MRRPC Agreement with WCWRPC for USDA Funding
B. Bluebird Consulting Agreement with WCWRPC for USDA Funding
Background: Four counties within the WCWRPC region (Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, and Eau Claire) comprise the 7-county Northwest Community Network (NCN), created through the USDA's Rural Partners Network (RPN) in 2022. The RPN recommended that the NCN apply for RBDG funds to complete a regional outdoor recreation plan. The Executive Committee adopted a Resolution at the February 8, 2024, meeting authorizing WCWRPC staff to apply for said grant on behalf of the NCN. WCWRPC was informed of the grant award during the week of July 22, 2024, followed by a formal press conference on July 30, 2024. The agreement with USDA was approved by the Executive Committee on August 8, 2024. Additional NCN partners on the project include Visit Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, the City of Altoona, and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC). These two agreements allow MRRPC and Bluebird Consulting to operate as 'sub-contractors' to be compensated by the RBDG award funds through WCWRPC.
Potential Action: Review and approve each agreement separately.
- 10. Approval of Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for the Funding of Updated Urban Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plans for Hudson and Menomonie – Allen/Frank**
Background: The current SSA Plans were adopted in 1995 (Menomonie) and 1997 (Hudson). Therefore a comprehensive update is needed. With the assistance from both cities, WCWRPC will facilitate the plan update process, and WDNR will provide consultation and ultimate review and approval. WCWRPC staff provided a project proposal and scope of work to WDNR on June 4, 2024. The agreement was finalized by WDNR on August 29, 2024, for \$49,750 in WDNR funding through December 31, 2025, commencing on October 1, 2024.
Potential Action: Review and approve the aid agreement.
- 11. Technology Enterprise Fund (TEF) Manual Revision – Allen/Frank**
Background: TEF is one of the business revolving loan funds the Regional Business Fund, Inc. (RBF) administers. TEF was made possible through Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds awarded to WCWRPC provided by HUD in 2005, totaling \$397,000. A Management Agreement for EDI TEF and Sub-Grant Agreement were executed between WCWRPC and the RBF in 2006, and these agreements are renewed annually in March. The Fund has historically been underutilized, which led to the reduction of the minimum loan amount (Section 4.2.1.) from \$100,000 to \$25,000 back in January 2024. Further, the RBF, Inc. Board at their meeting of September 11, 2024, is considering an amendment to the TEF Manual to allow the use of the TEF as a source of grant matching funds, such as for additional EDA

revolving loan dollars or WEDC Capital Catalyst funds. The TEF Manual allows amendments to the Manual by the RBF Board of Directors subject to approval of WCWRPC.

Potential Action: Review and potentially approve an amendment to the TEF Manual as recommended by the RBF Board of Directors.

12. Director's Report - Allen

Background: Allen will provide an update on project, budget, and staffing activities.

Potential Action: Informational only.

13. Any Other Business or Updates – Allen/Frank

14. Next Commission Meeting Date – Thursday, November 14, 2024 – Banbury Place, Eau Claire.

15. Next Executive Committee Meeting Date – Thursday, October 10, 2024 – Banbury Place, Eau Claire.

16. Adjournment

At the conclusion of the meeting, please join us for a tour of the recently constructed Clark County Highway Department facilities.

ATTENTION COMMISSIONERS: If you are unable to attend, please contact Erin Whyte at 715-836-2918 or ewhyte@wcwrpc.org as counts are needed for quorum and lunch purposes.