

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

10:00 a.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners – Committee Members:

Michael A Crowley, Chairman
Daniel W. Stoffel, Vice-Chairman
Gilbert B. Bakke
Nancy Russell
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Michael J. Skalitzky

Commissioners – Committee Non-Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin
Charles L. Colman
Robert W. Pitts

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Business Manager
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary
Jamie Kuhn	Milwaukee County Director of Intergovernmental Relations, representing Commissioner Marina Dimitrijevic

ROLL CALL

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Mr. Yunker noted for the record that Commissioner Skalitzky had asked to be excused, and Ms. Jamie Kuhn, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Milwaukee County, was in attendance representing Commissioner Marina Dimitrijevic, Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2006, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Buestrin, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee held on November 13, 2006, were approved as published. Upon approval of the November 13, 2006, minutes, Ms. Russell suggested that today's meeting minutes be transmitted to the Committee members upon completion for their review in a timely manner.

CONSIDERATION OF COUNTY SURVEYOR SERVICES PROGRAM

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Yunker to present to the Committee members the preliminary draft Staff Memorandum entitled, "Review of County Surveyor Services Program" (copy attached to Official Minutes). Mr. Yunker stated that the memorandum provides a strategic review of the Commission's County Surveyor work program and proposes a revised budget based on existing and anticipated staffing changes and updated factors for allocating program costs between participating counties. He noted the program is not considered a core planning function essential to the mission and purpose of the Commission, but has been provided at the request of Counties and serves as an effort which provides coordination of, and efficient operation for, the Counties. He proceeded to review the memorandum page-by-page with the Committee. During the review, the following comments were made and questions were asked.

Ms. Russell noted that Dr. Kurt W. Bauer currently serves as a valuable resource to Walworth County as the Walworth County Surveyor, and as a member of the County's Land Information Advisory Council.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bakke, Mr. Yunker stated the Commission overhead rate is calculated using Federal Cost Allocation Plan guidelines. The calculated rate is assigned to all projects within the Commission Work Program, including the County Surveyor program.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stoffel, Mr. Yunker confirmed that the positions of County Surveyor and Deputy County Surveyor will be combined into one full-time position of Chief Surveyor. The current County Surveyor and recently retired Deputy Surveyor each worked approximately half-time on the County Surveyor Program. As proposed in the draft memorandum, the Commission would seek to fill the position of Chief Surveyor and this would replace the current County Surveyor and Deputy County Surveyor.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Russell, Mr. Yunker stated the Chief Surveyor will attend County Land Information meetings.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Yunker asked for each County representative's perspective on the County Surveyor program. Mr. Yunker noted that two counties—Racine and Washington—do not currently participate in the Commission's County Surveyor Program.

Mr. Pitts noted from Kenosha County's perspective the value of the Commission's work as County Surveyor. He questioned whether it was necessary to ask Counties to make a five year commitment to the Commission County Surveyor program. He noted the proposed increase in program costs, but also noted that since 2006 there has been only one increase in County Surveyor program costs of 2 percent.

Ms. Russell stated that she had shared the draft memorandum with Mr. David Bretl, the Walworth County Administrator, and that she and the County Administrator support the Commission continuing the County Surveyor program.

Chairman Crowley stated that there may be a need for the Commission staff to explain the importance of the County Surveyor function of maintaining the U.S. Public Land Survey System and combining that system with the State Plane Coordinate System and the National Geodetic Vertical Control system to provide a high order horizontal and vertical control survey network. He stated that he had met with the Director of the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use and they believed there would be support for Waukesha County remaining a partner in the Commission's County Surveyor program. He stated that there is an interest, however, in pursuing a transition from the legacy to the newer survey datums. Mr. Yunker stated that the Commission had investigated this transition a few years ago (See Commission Memorandum Report No. 206, *Estimate of the Costs of Converting the Foundational Elements of the Land Information and Public Works Management Systems in Southeastern Wisconsin from Legacy to New Datums*, October 2012) and the costs of transition were significant and benefits limited. He added, however, staff will reexamine this issue with the involvement of Waukesha County staff.

Mr. Wirth stated that he believed Ozaukee County would support maintaining the Commission's County Surveyor program. He noted that Ozaukee County had only recently become a partner in the Commission's County Surveyor program, and noted the Commission's recent work has begun to restore the U.S. Public Land Survey System in the County.

Mr. Stoffel stated that Washington County is different from the other counties in that it has a registered land surveyor on its County staff, who is the appointed County Surveyor. Mr. Stoffel noted that this staff person not only is the County's Surveyor, but also is the County Engineer and does work for the Highway Department and the Land and Water Conservation Division of the Planning and Parks Department. He added that consultants do perform surveying work for the County under the direction of the Washington County Surveyor. Mr. Yunker stated that Commission staff believes that Washington County has done a good job of maintaining the U.S. Public Land Survey System.

Mr. Bakke stated that Racine County has used consultants to perform County Surveyor duties. He acknowledged that given the resources that have been allocated to this function, the U.S. Public Land Survey System is likely not being maintained, but it would be difficult to increase the budget so that Racine County could participate in the Commission's County Surveyor program.

Ms. Kuhn representing Commissioner Dimitrijevic indicated that Milwaukee County would want the Commission to continue the County Surveyor program and Milwaukee County may be expected to continue as a partner in the program. She added that the preparation of the calendar year 2015 Milwaukee County budget was in process and the year 2015 Milwaukee County share of the proposed County Surveyor program budget would be included in the Milwaukee County 2015 budget.

There was some discussion as to whether the Commission should require, or request, a contractual commitment between three to five years from the participating counties. It was agreed that no commitment would be requested.

Upon conclusion of the discussion and there being no additional questions, a motion was made by Mr. Wirth, and seconded by Ms. Russell, to have Mr. Yunker create a one-page memorandum outlining the proposed changes to the County Surveyor Program and the anticipated year 2015 costs of the County Surveyor Program, and to distribute this proposal to the five participating Counties as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yunker reported that there were no announcements or correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Colman, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Executive Director

KRY/dad
Attachments
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