

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Kenosha County Center
19600 75th Street
Bristol, WI 53104

Hearing Room, 1st floor

Meeting Occurred in Person and Virtually via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:

Commissioners:

Charles L. Colman, Chairman
Michael A. Crowley, Vice-Chairman
Donna Brown-Martin
Pricilla Coggs-Jones
Jonathan Delagrave
James T. Dwyer
Katrina Hanson
Brian E. Holt
John Holloway
Dewayne Johnson
Mary Knipper
James A. Ladwig
Amy Maurer
Natalia Minkel-Dumit
Robert W. Pitts
Jeffrey D. Schleif
Peggy L. Shumway
Eric Stelter
David L. Stroik

Excused:

Thomas H. Buestrin

Staff:

Benjamin R. McKay	Interim Executive Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Director of Administration
Eric D. Lynde	Chief Special Projects Planner

Guests:

Ms. Samantha Kerkman	Kenosha County Executive
Mr. Gabe Nudo	Kenosha County Board Chairman and County Board Supervisor, District 12
Mr. Andy Buehler	Director of Planning and Development, Kenosha County

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ROLL CALL

Chairman Colman called the 282nd meeting of the Commission to order at 3:04 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Colman indicated for the record that Commissioner Buestrin and had asked to be excused.

Chairman Colman introduced Ms. Samantha Kerkman, Kenosha County Executive and thanked her for hosting the Commission meeting. Ms. Kerkman welcomed the Commissioners and then indicated that while she has been the County Executive for less than a year, she has 22 years of experience in government and has worked with planning and development departments. She stated she will continue to put forth ideas that are not only good for Kenosha, but also for the Region. She also welcomed Mr. John Holloway, who was seated at the December quarterly meeting, and Ms. Amy Maurer as new Kenosha County Commissioners.

OFFICIAL SEATING OF KENOSHA COUNTY COMMISSIONER AMY MAURER

Mr. Holloway introduced Ms. Amy Maurer as the Commission's new Kenosha County Commissioner.

Mr. Holloway noted that Ms. Maurer was appointed by the County Executive, Ms. Kerkman, and confirmed by the County Board. Mr. Holloway then reviewed Ms. Maurer's biography, noting she is the CFO of her family business, serves on the Prairie School Board of Trustees, and is a co-founder of We Back the Badge.

Mr. Pitts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, to formally seat Ms. Amy Maurer as a Commissioner representing Kenosha County on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

OFFICIAL SEATING OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRICILLA COGGS-JONES

Chairman Colman introduced Ms. Pricilla Coggs-Jones as the Commission's new Milwaukee County Commissioner.

Chairman Colman noted that Ms. Coggs-Jones was elected to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in a special election in 2021 and serves as Chair of the County Transportation and Transit Committee. Before joining the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Coggs-Jones worked in human resources as a workshop facilitator. In this role, Supervisor Coggs-Jones developed skills in administrative tasks including interviewing, coaching, resume writing assistance and human services. Supervisor Coggs-Jones has a deep history of community involvement. In the area of workforce development, she has worked with a diverse group of individuals, including those coming out of incarceration, entry level job seekers, and people dealing with professional setbacks. He noted that Supervisor Coggs-Jones is also the founder of Urban Grass Roots (UGR) Inc., which provides community block clean-ups.

Mr. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, to formally seat Ms. Pricilla Coggs-Jones as a Commissioner representing Milwaukee County on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

OFFICIAL SEATING OF OZAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER ERIC STELTER

Chairman Colman introduced Mr. Eric Stelter as the Commission's new Ozaukee County Commissioner.

Chairman Colman noted that Mr. Eric Stelter has been a resident of Cedarburg for the past 22 years, has two teenage children, and is involved in non-profit and government roles. In addition to being a County

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Board Supervisor, Mr. Stelter works in the technology sector, owning a consulting firm, ETS Advisory Services. Mr. Stelter is also interested in art, music, theater, and international travel.

Mr. Stroik made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried unanimously, to formally seat Mr. Eric Stelter as a Commissioner representing Ozaukee County on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

OFFICIAL SEATING OF WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER KATRINA HANSON

Mr. Stroik introduced Ms. Katrina Hanson as the Commission's new Washington County Commissioner.

Mr. Stroik noted that Washington County Commissioner Katrina Hanson is owner of Hanson & Company Real Estate firm. She also supports women entrepreneurs, donates her time to the Washington County Humane Society and the Museum of Wisconsin Arts, and fosters rescue dogs. Ms. Hanson serves on the West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce, the Washington County Land Information Council, and is a Rotarian on the West Bend Noon Rotary. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, and attended post graduate school focusing on Biological Sciences also at the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Stroik made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, to formally seat Ms. Katrina Hanson as a Commissioner representing Washington County on the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2022, QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 7, 2022, Quarterly Commission Meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Colman called on Mr. Stroik to present the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Stroik noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting and called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through January 29, 2023, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$8.6 million. Revenues are projected at about \$8.7 million, exclusive of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.
2. The Commission's Reserves Policy indicates a minimum reserve amount of \$5,170,950, with a maximum reserve amount of \$11,241,895. The audited cash and cash equivalents at end of year 2021 are \$5,744,190.
3. As of January 29, 2023, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand approximately \$7.6 million. Just over \$6.47 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of January 29, 2023, that fund was yielding 4.26 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and certificate of deposit accounts at several banks.

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There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 29, 2023, was approved (copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Chairman Colman asked Mr. Crowley to present the Planning and Research Committee report. Mr. Crowley noted that the report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He noted that the Planning and Research Committee had met once since the Commission's Quarterly meeting on December 7, 2022.

On February 7, 2023, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption the following amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan:
 - Amendment to the Sussex-Lisbon sanitary sewer service area
2. Received a presentation on the Regional Natural Areas Plan update.

Mr. McKay noted that the Amendment to the Sussex-Lisbon sanitary sewer service area will not be considered for approval at this meeting because Lisbon will not be able to hold a public hearing to address this Amendment until April. This Amendment will be brought to the June Annual Meeting.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schleif, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee Report was approved (copy of the Planning and Research Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

Administrative Committee Report

Chairman Colman asked Mr. Dwyer to present the Administrative Committee report. Mr. Dwyer noted that the report had been provided to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. He also noted that the Administrative Committee had met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on December 7, 2022.

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for five financial periods: year 2022 Nos. 23, 24, 25, and 26, and year 2023 No. 1, for the period October 24, 2022, to January 1, 2023.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending January 1, 2023.

On Thursday, February 16, 2023, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for two financial periods: year 2023 Nos. 2 and 3 for the period January 2, 2023, to January 29, 2023.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial

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reporting period ending January 29, 2023.

There being no comments or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee Report was approved (copy of the Administrative Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

Executive Committee Report

Commission Chairman Colman, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, provided the Executive Committee report. He stated that the Executive Committee met two times since the Quarterly Commission Meeting on December 7, 2022. Chairman Colman's report on the January 19, 2023, and February 16, 2023, meetings follow:

At both meetings, the Committee:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved proposed contracts for planning work. Seven contracts were approved in January, and two contracts were approved in February. The details of those contracts are attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining progress on key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission in 2023. The most recent progress report is attached to this report.

At the January meeting the Committee also took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved amendments to the 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These amendments to the 2023-2026 TIP were necessary to advance 18 existing projects and 22 new projects, which were approved by the Commission's Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and West Bend Urbanized Areas.
2. Reviewed and approved an amendment to the 2023 Overall Work Program (OWP). This amendment revised the 2023 OWP and was done to add Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 funding to the 2023 work program activities. This funding will support the conduct of a Transit Enhancement Study for the Bluemound Road Corridor.

No additional actions were taken at the February meeting.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee Report was approved (copy of the Executive Committee Report is attached to the Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS (RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03)

Chairman Colman asked the Commission to consider adoption of Resolution No. 2023-03, which is an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2023-2026. Mr. McKay presented Resolution 2023-03, amending the 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He indicated there are 3 existing projects and 49 new projects to be amended into the TIP.

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He stated that these projects were approved by the Commission's Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and West Bend Urbanized Areas.

Mr. McKay then explained how to read the tables and the projects. He also summarized the projects by County.

Ms. Coggs-Jones commented that, after reflecting on conversations she has had with Ms. Donna Brown-Martin concerning Milwaukee County projects, the TIP process is enlightening.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, to approve Resolution No. 2023-03, seconded by Mr. Crowley, and carried by a vote of 19 ayes and 0 nays, was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2023-03 is attached to the Official Minutes).

STAFF PRESENTATION ON COMMUTEWISE AND FLEXRIDE MILWAUKEE

Mr. Colman asked Mr. Eric D. Lynde, Chief Special Projects Planner, to present to the Commission an overview of the CommuteWISE program and the FlexRide Milwaukee transportation service.

Mr. Lynde began the presentation by detailing the CommuteWISE program, initiated by Commission staff in January 2023, and noted that it helps to implement a VISION 2050 recommendation by establishing a regionwide travel demand management program that encourages alternatives to driving alone.

During the presentation, the following comments and questions were made.

Mr. Dwyer expressed concern that it may not be a good time to implement a commute program when many people are working remotely. Mr. Lynde indicated that this has been a consideration in developing the program but that many people have returned or are returning to commuting, which presents an opportunity to consider alternatives they may not have previously considered.

Ms. Brown-Martin expressed support for the new CommuteWISE program, noting that Milwaukee County Department of Transportation employees used the State's Rideshare program prior to the launch of CommuteWISE and it allowed them to track their commutes throughout the year. She stated that program users are also able to view public transit options, such as MCTS bus routes, for their trips.

Mr. Johnson then asked if Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funds were available for CommuteWISE. Mr. McKay responded that CommuteWISE may be eligible for CMAQ funds, but the project would need to demonstrate an ability to reduce additional emissions. Ms. Brown-Martin stated that Federal law allows for CMAQ funding to be used for transit-related activities.

Mr. Holloway inquired about outreach to employers, noting that Kenosha County has developers and employers which would likely be interested in CommuteWISE and alternative transportation options but may not be aware as many are headquartered out of state. Mr. Lynde stated that employer outreach is a primary focus of the CommuteWISE program and that staff would be happy to connect with any interested employers and provide information and materials that Kenosha County could distribute to employers.

Mr. Lynde then reviewed the FlexRide Program, stating that the National Science Foundation, through the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee provided a grant to start this program. Mr. McKay noted that FlexRide has been discussed during several work progress report agenda items at past Executive Committee meetings.

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In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Mr. Lynde stated that safety is an important consideration for the FlexRide Milwaukee service and that he believed the drivers are screened.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holt, Mr. Lynde stated that riders paid a small fare for a FlexRide trip as part of the pilot, with the remaining cost covered by a National Science Foundation grant. Mobilize has obtained additional funding through the State's Workforce Innovation Grant program to continue and expand the service and is in the process of establishing a new fare structure and obtaining additional public and private funding.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lynde stated the FlexRide app does not currently link to other transit alternatives but that may be added and FlexRide may eventually be incorporated into the new WisGo app being developed by MCTS.

In response to a comment by Mr. Andy Buehler, Kenosha County Director of Planning and Development, Mr. Lynde indicated that the FlexRide program was not available in Kenosha County however staff had been working with the Kenosha Area Business Alliance to support a potential pilot program to explore on-demand transportation connecting workers to suburban Kenosha employers. He also noted that Commission staff was working with Kenosha Area Transit to initiate a transit development plan that may explore on-demand transportation options.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Colman noted the March 16, 2023, Administrative and Executive Committee meetings have been cancelled. Chairman Colman also noted that the Hiring Committee is in the process of reviewing three candidates and will conduct the first round of interviews in the coming weeks.

Mr. Pitts thanked Ms. Kerkman for setting up this meeting and acknowledged that the County Board Chairman, Mr. Gabe Nudo was in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Stelter, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin R. McKay
Interim Deputy Secretary

BRM/EAL/EDL
#00267345