

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Commissioners Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53187

Meeting Occurred in Person and Virtually via Video and Telephone Conference

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Michael Crowley, Chairperson
Donna Brown-Martin
Paul Decker
Katrina Hanson
John Holloway
Brian Holt
Dewayne Johnson
Tom Kramer
Amy Maurer
Joe Messinger
Natalia Minkel-Dumit
Robert Pitts
Jeffrey Schleif
Eric Stelter
David Stroik
Donald Trottier

Priscilla Coggs-Jones
Charles Colman
Trevor Jung
Mary Knipper
Michael Maistelman

Staff:

Stephanie Hacker	Executive Director
Benjamin McKay	Deputy Director
Elizabeth Larsen	Director of Administration
Jennifer Sarnecki	Deputy Chief Transportation Planner
Dana Shinnars	Lead Commute Program Coordinator

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ROLL CALL

Chairperson Crowley called the Planning and Research Committee meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present. Chairperson Crowley indicated for the record that Commissioners Coggs-Jones, Colman, Jung, Knipper, and Maistelman had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2024, MEETING

Chairperson Crowley asked if there were any changes or additions to the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes. There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Schleif, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 6, 2024, Planning and Research Committee Meeting were approved.

PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON THE EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

Noting there are several new Commissioners on the Planning and Research Committee, Mr. McKay provided a brief overview of the function of the Committee. Following the overview, Chairperson Crowley asked Ms. Sarnecki, Deputy Chief Transportation Planner, to provide an update to the Committee on the work being performed under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for the four county Milwaukee Metropolitan Area. Ms. Sarnecki introduced Ms. Shinnors and they provided the presentation.

During the presentation the following comments and questions were made.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Johnson, Mr. McKay explained that non-competitive grants were made available to States, territories, tribes, and the 67 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the Country to develop climate plans. Mr. McKay also explained that in addition to the planning funding, implementation funding was also available through competitive planning grants. He then noted the metro area's implementation grant submittal was not successful; however, having a climate plan in place could help county and local governments in the metro area pursue other opportunities in the future. Ms. Sarnecki noted that the implementation grants were very competitive.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Schleif, Ms. Sarnecki stated that program progress reports are submitted to the Commission's CPRG project officer in the EPA Region 5 Office.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Decker, Ms. Sarnecki stated that the Commission staff is coordinating efforts with the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and the Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities area. Mr. Decker suggested coordinating with economic development agencies such as the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and the Waukesha County Business Alliance. Mr. McKay noted that Commission staff participate on the Regional Economic Partnership (REP), which is coordinated by the Milwaukee 7 and includes representatives from the each of the economic development organizations serving the seven county Southeastern Wisconsin Region, the City of Milwaukee, We Energies, and the Commission. He also noted that WEDC staff regularly attend REP meetings. Mr. McKay stated that he would introduce the Commission's CPRG work at the next REP meeting. Mr. Messinger commented that groups that reach out to small businesses should also be involved, and Mr. Decker commented that manufacturers may have an interest in this work. Ms. Minkel-Dumit suggested reaching out to agricultural groups such as the Ozaukee County Farm Demonstration Network.

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Mr. Holt noted there are similar groups in Walworth County. Ms. Shinnars stated that these groups could be included in upcoming stakeholder meetings.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Schleif, Mr. McKay stated that the Commission received the CPRG planning grant funding and is responsible for preparing a metro area priority climate pollution reduction plan, which was completed in February of 2024; a metro area comprehensive climate pollution reduction plan, which needs to be completed by December of 2025; and status monitoring, which will end in 2027. He also noted that the City of Milwaukee is a sub-recipient of the grant, and that the Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan is a foundational document of the CPRG effort. Mr. McKay stated that staff is working to make sure the CPRG deliverables will be encompassing enough to meet the needs of the four counties and interested local governments located in the metro area, similar to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the seven county Region that was acted on by the Commission in 2021.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Messinger, Ms. Sarnecki stated that the CPRG planning grant requires recipients to document information about the implementation authority of collaborating government agencies and identify other funding opportunities that could be leveraged to implement the recommendations. Ms. Brown-Martin stated that coordinating with metro area counties and communities can focus project objectives.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Johnson, Ms. Sarnecki stated that the comprehensive climate pollution reduction plan will have an emphasis on resilience by considering actions that can improve public health and increase workforce opportunities.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Pitts, Ms. Sarnecki stated that Kenosha County is included in the Chicago metropolitan area effort, and all counties in Wisconsin, including Racine and Walworth Counties, are included in the State CPRG effort.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Crowley, Mr. McKay stated that the comprehensive climate pollution reduction plan is not a regional plan or an amendment to a regional plan, so it will not need to be acted on by the Planning and Research Committee; however, reports can still be provided to any interested Commissioners when completed.

Mr. Holloway commented that there is not a return on investment for this project if counties or communities do not apply for and receive grants. He also commented that many counties and communities apply for various types of grants and there is greater competition than in the past. Mr. Decker commented that some businesses are involved in green infrastructure, and a connection between economic resilience, jobs, and industrial growth needs to be made to demonstrate return on investment.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Crowley thanked Commission staff for the presentation.

NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Crowley stated that the next meeting of the Planning and Research Committee will be held on February 4, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Crowley asked Mr. McKay if there were any correspondence or announcements. Mr. McKay noted that the next quarterly Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at the Bucyrus Club in the City of South Milwaukee. Ms. Larsen noted that the next Executive Committee

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meeting will be held on November 14, 2024, which will be preceded by the Nominating Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Schleif, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hacker
Executive Director

SH/BRM/EAL
#275175