MEETING NOTICE

OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: DuWayne Federwitz, Chair (Waupaca Co.), Hope Karth (Calumet Co.), Daniel Rettler (Outagamie Co.), Jeremy Johnson (Menominee County), Larry Timm (Waushara Co.), and Bob Schmeichel (Winnebago County)

Please contact our offices at least 48 hours in advance if you are unable to attend or arrange for an alternate, as a quorum (3) is needed to conduct Committee business.

DATE: Thursday, October 10, 2019 Please note different day!
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: ECWRPC Offices, 400 Ahnaip Street, Menasha, WI

Agenda

1) Welcome & Introductions

2) Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 regarding Open Meetings

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Approval of Agenda / Motion to Deviate

5) Public Comment pertaining to items on agenda

ACTION ITEMS:

6) Approval of July 10, 2019 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (Attachment #1)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

7) News and Announcements

8) 2020 Technical Assistance Requests / Work Program Update (materials to be provided at meeting).

9) Special Order of Business: ECWRPC 2020-2023 Strategic Planning Session Our facilitator, Dave Tebo, will spend about 1 hour with the group to run through some dedicated exercises which build off the 8/28/19 Steering Committee Strategic Planning Workshop outcomes. PLEASE NOTE THE QUICK ‘HOMEWORK’ PROVIDED IN THE ATTACHMENT (Attachment #2)

(Over Please)
10) Program/Project Updates & Discussion Items:
   a) Water Management Issue Updates (Todd V.)
   b) Open Space and Recreation Planning Activities (Trish N.)
      i) Status Report of CORP Projects
   c) NR-135 Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Program Report and Updates (Scott K.)
   d) Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (Tom B.)
   e) Niagara Escarpment Management Update (Eric F.)

11) ECWRPC Steering Committee Update (Attachment #3)

12) County Round Table Sharing/Discussion (as time permits)

13) 2020 Meeting Times and Schedule
   a) Next meeting: January 8, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., location TBD

14) Adjourn

*Upcoming Meeting dates: This Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon. Locations may vary by season and ECWRPC conference room availability.*

*Next Meeting Date: January 8, 2020*

*Tentative Upcoming 2020 Meeting Dates:*
2020 Dates: April 8, 2020, July 8, 2020, and October 14, 2020

*Public Meeting Notice has been sent to media outlets and Open Space & Environmental Committee Members were notified via mail and email.*

*Accommodation Notice: Any person requiring special accommodation & who wishes to attend this meeting should contact ECWRPC Offices at 920-751-4770 at least 48 hours in advance.*
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Open Space and Environmental Management Committee
ECWRPC Offices, Menasha, WI
July 10, 2019

Committee Members Present:
Bob Schmeichel, Vice Chair..................................................Winnebago County
Hope Karth .................................................................................Calumet County
Larry Timm ...............................................................................Waushara County
Dan Rettler ................................................................................Outagamie County
Jeremy Johnson (perm alt. for Elizabeth Moses) .........................Menominee County

Committee Members Excused:
DuWayne Federwitz, Chair ......................................................Waupaca County

Staff Present:
Eric Fowle ................................................................................Executive Director
Scott Konkle ...............................................................................Reclamation Mining Specialist
Trish Nau ..................................................................................Principal Park and Recreation Planner
Anna Hogan ...............................................................................GIS Planning Assistant

1. Welcome and Introductions: Vice-Chair Bob Schmeichel facilitated the meeting in the absence of Chair DuWayne Federwitz. No introductions were made as all sitting at the table were acquainted.

   Mr. Schmeichel called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

2. Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 Regarding Open Meetings Requirements

   It was determined that the meeting was in compliance with Wisconsin § Chapter 19, Subchapter V, Section 19.84 regarding Open Meeting Requirements and a quorum was present.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was said to start the meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda & Motion to deviate

   A motion to approve the agenda and to deviate as needed was made by Ms. Karth and seconded by Mr. Rettler. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

   There was no public present.
ACTION ITEMS:

#1 Approval of April 10, 2019 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (Attachment #1)

A motion to approve the summary of proceedings was made by Mr. Timm with a second by Ms. Karth. The item passed with one abstention from Mr. Johnson.

#2 Nomination and Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

This action item was held until the end of the meeting. Mr. Schmeichel opened the nominations to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Schmeichel made a motion to re-elect Mr. Federwitz as Chair contingent on his acceptance of the position, seconded by Mr. Timm. The motion passed. Mr. Rettler made a motion to keep Mr. Schmeichel as the Vice-Chair with a second by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Nau will follow up with Mr. Federwitz on the Chair position.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Announcements:

1. Mr. Fowle relayed information on the Nelson Issue Brief regarding Nitrates and Runoffs as Attachment #2.
2. Ms. Nau gave the Committee details about the Province Trail opening in Menasha on June 18 and showed pictures and mapping of where it was located.
3. The Lake Michigan Day Celebration will be held at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum on August, 9 this year. Mr. Fowle also stated that the LMS Champions of Conservation Award will be given.

STAFF ITEMS:

2020 Technical Assistance Requests and Current Work Program Status

Mr. Fowle handed out a quick synopsis spreadsheet of the 1400 and 1600 work programs. He reported on the current projects and relayed new technical assistance projects that may occur in 2020.

Water Management Issues

Mr. Fowle shared a handout on the Menasha Lock Electrification Proposal to rid the channel of Gobies. This would be an electric barrier to prevent the invasive fish from entering the lock and into the system. The Lock could be slated to reopen in 2021.

Recreation Planning Activities Update

Ms. Nau gave a status report to the Committee on current CORP’s in progress: Shawano County, City of Menasha, City of Shawano, and the City of Kiel. The City of Menasha should be wrapping up within the next couple of months.

Winnebago County’s CORP was adopted by the County Board on April 16, 2019.
Ms. Nau also stated she presented information at the Winnebago County Board on the Sunnyview Expo Economic Impact Study that showed economic value of revenue to the overall area in regards to an additional 28 acres of property that is going to be added to the venue.

**Safe Routes to Parks – City of Shawano Pathways Grant** Ms. Nau discussed she has been working with Shawano Pathways on their grant process of looking at access to trails within the city. The grant obtained was for $12,500 to provide better park access of the surrounding areas and Native American population base within the vicinity of the trails and parks. Ms. Nau will analyze data received from Shawano Pathways in trail and park access with the CORP and Park Audits.

**NR-135 Metallic Mining Program**

Mr. Konkle’s conveyed to the committee his work on inspection sites and a new reclamation operation. He continues to look at vegetative cover on reclaimed areas with the recent aerial photos to see what operations are active and which ones can be reclaimed.

**Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway:**

In Mr. Baron’s absence, Mr. Fowle gave a briefing to the Committee that work continues on preparing updates to the water trail maps in advance of having a batch printed for the Upper and Lower Fox River segments. The Parkway tourism along the river may pick up steam as the municipalities add in launch sites and development areas.

**Niagara Escarpment Update**

In Mr. Fowle’s handed out to the Committee members examples of the rebranding effort that NERN is currently doing for different activities.

- Initial work on the development of NERN “sub-brands” and marketing materials for specific efforts using a local firm, A2Z Design. These materials will be utilized to initiate fundraising for these various efforts.

- The focus areas for this branding work include:
  - Niagara Escarpment Geotourism Program (and a catchy new name for it too!)
  - Ledge Tours / Ledge to Lake Tours
  - Niagara Escarpment Curriculum Project
  - General Events (AVA Celebration, FVTC Culinary Clash dinner, etc.)

- Wisconsin Ledge AVA Celebration invitation was handed out, August 17, 2019, Trout Springs Winery.

- The 2019 “Ledge-ndary” Student Chef Challenge event has been set for Friday, November 1, 2019. This annual partnership fundraising dinner event showcases the FVTC Culinary Program and local (escarpment) sourced food and wine.

**Steering Committee Update:**

In an effort to better inform all Commissioners/Committees, routine reports on Steering Committee activities will be provided as each Standing Committee meeting.
The Steering Committee will likely meet again in July to discuss/act on the following items, including but not limited to:

- Future levy and financial strategy
- Strategic Plan update
- Update of Personnel Policies
- Update of Fee Schedule
- Succession Planning for Key Personnel
- Update of Bylaws
- Membership Levy Issues with Outagamie County

**County Round Table Discussion:**

Items of importance from committee members regarding their perspective counties consisted of:

**Calumet County** - Ms. Karth stated that the county has almost completed its Farmland Preservation Plan and Zoning Ordinances. They are also in the process of building a new jail.

**Winnebago County** - Mr. Schmiechel relayed that the County is doing a good job, but more parking is needed at the boat launch facilities. He also stated that the Town of Neenah is looking into a trail from their Conservancy Park to connect with Mahler Park and City of Neenah Trails System.

**Waushara County** – Mr. Timm stated that the County will be hiring five more police officers for 2020 at a $500,000 budget.

**Outagamie County** – Mr. Rettler relayed that the County is still looking at access along the CB and STH 15 corridors.

**Menominee County** – Mr. Johnson stated that there has been public informational meetings scheduled to assess safe routes within the reservation. The County received a 5 year grant through the UW-Extension and CDC for health based activity increases within the County.

**Next Meeting Time & Agenda**

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.** with the location TBD.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Timm and seconded by Mr. Rettler. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

*Upcoming Meeting dates: This Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon unless otherwise noted. Locations may vary by season and ECWRPC conference room availability.*

*Tentative Upcoming 2019 Meeting Dates:*

October 9, 2019
MEMORANDUM

Date: October 1, 2019

To: Open Space/Environmental Mgt. Committee Members

From: Eric W. Fowle, AICP – Executive Director

RE: October 10th Strategic Planning Session / Overview & QUICK HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

The October 10th Committee agenda includes a 1-hour Strategic Planning Session. As such, I wanted to share some basic information on how this process will be conducted, as well ask you to prepare /think about some important things prior to the meeting so that we can be efficient with your use of time. IT WILL BE IMPERATIVE TO HAVE EVERY COMMISSIONER’S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND INPUT IN THIS PROCESS.

We have secured the services of Mr. Dave Tebo (Wi2 / Public Administration Associates, LLC http://public-administration.com/associates/dave-tebo/) to be a third-party, objective facilitator for portions of this process. Mr. Tebo is well qualified in matters of strategic planning, plus he has extensive experience in local government.

Staff has designed this process to focus on our Commissioners’ wants, needs and desires when it comes to the role and specific functions of our organization. To that end, this process will be guided primarily by our Commissioners, and staff input will be severely limited until we get to the point of discussing implementation scenarios and any potential structural or financial changes, if warranted. As such, I have asked staff to limit their involvement at the Standing Committee level in hopes that it allows Commissioners to speak more freely about issues and concerns.

The specific process for this workshop will entail the following steps and short exercises over the course of approximately 1 hour:

1) Introductions / Ground Rules (attached)
2) Headlines Exercise (see attached worksheet/homework assignment – please bring with to meeting! If you completed this exercise previously as part of the Steering Committee, there is no need for you to do so.)
3) Identification & Prioritization of County, Regional & State Trends (Summary attached – no “homework” on this, other than to think about it a bit)
4) Planning for Success & Resiliency (Summary attached – no “homework” on this, other than to think about it a bit. Also note that staff will not be present for this exercise)

The information generated at this workshop will be combined with that of the other Standing Committees and will be used by the Steering Committee to formulate a three-year vision and strategic implementation plan for both administrative and functional areas of the Commission. Therefore it is important that you participate with an open mind and future-oriented, visionary mindset.

If you have questions or concerns about the meeting, or the strategic planning process, please feel free to call or email me at your convenience.
The following “Ground Rules” were established by the Steering Committee at their initial Strategic Planning Workshop held on August 28, 2019:

1. Conduct yourself with decorum;
2. Take a positive, helpful approach;
3. All Commissioners should speak/provide input;
4. Be honest, open and frank;
5. Get to the point (concise statements/thoughts)
6. Consider the ENTIRE region;
EXERCISE #1: “Headlines”

Please take the time PRIOR to the October 10th Open Space/Environmental Mgt. Committee meeting to write down your thoughts for this exercise.

Scenario: Pretend you need to write up a newspaper article about the Committee’s work and efforts five to ten years from now. What would that article’s headline say? Thinking about this further, what three points might be covered in the article associated with this headline?

1. What is the newspaper headline YOU envision being published about the Committee’s work and efforts 5 to 10 years from now?

2. What 3 points would be covered in the article associated with this headline?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
ECWRPC 2020-2023 Strategic Plan

LISTING OF IDENTIFIED TRENDS
(Steering Committee, August 28, 2019)

The Steering Committee was asked to generate a list of current trends that are affecting counties, communities, or perhaps even the State (which has trickle down effects). The identified trends were written on post-it notes by each Committee member and then posted on the wall in a categorized format. These initial results were NOT ranked or prioritized however. Multiple mentions of trends are noted in parentheses.

Population / Demographics
1. (2) Millennials,
2. (2) Aging Population / Elderly (Boomers).
3. Ethnic diversity.
5. Try to think ahead what the next generation wants for themselves.

Housing
1. Lack of affordable housing makes it difficult for schools and county to hire new teachers and county employees.

Political
1. Need money to run for office for state / federal.
2. Need to change the perception through education on what government really can do in a cost-effective manner for its citizens.
3. Reversal of anti-government bias.
4. Greater emphasis on regional cooperation.
5. Lack of response by Madison Legislators
6. Divisive nature of Legislature.
7. Lack of participation for local government.
8. Interest down in local elections / public input / public meetings.

Environment
1. (2) Water quality (nitrates, phosphorus).
2. More habitat and species preservation.
4. Climate change.
5. Development must be sustainable.
7. Fight of economy vs. environment.

Economic Development
1. (2) Lack of trained [workforce].
2. (2) What would happen if computers / robotics.
3. Decreased budgets / $ available.
4. Broadband expansion – rural areas for economic development.
5. Shift from paper manufacturing.
6. Younger workforce / more needed as experience retires (not easy sometimes).
7. Major efforts at talent attraction.
8. Jobs available to support living standards.
9. How technology will bring goods and services to the rural areas.
10. Difficulty in attracting employees.
11. Decline of family farms.
12. Lack of new businesses and closing of old ones is leaving buildings vacant, leading to disrepair.
13. County and university working [together].
**Infrastructure / Community Facilities**

1. Infrastructure getting old.
2. Levy limits set by State.
3. County use of I-Pads.
4. Participation/cooperation increased in many areas for services / projects – local & regional.
5. UW System merger (UW-Osh/FoxValley/Fdl).
6. 5G – “smart” everything?
7. Calumet County presently collaborating with neighboring counties on services.

**Land Use**

1. Harder to develop land.
2. Higher density, less sprawl.
3. Agriculture will continue with less ownership [corporate farms]
4. Small farmers are being forced out of business due to economic downturn.

**Transportation**

1. 5G – “smart” everything?
2. Road conditions.
3. Budgets [repair needs].
4. Safety.

**Parks / Recreation / Open Space**

*No trends identified.*
Types of Trends and Forces:

- **Political**
- **Financial**
- **Demographic**
- **Social**
- **Economic**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Land Use**
- **Natural**
- **Cultural**
- **Technology**
- **Other?**
Planning for Success & Resiliency

What needs to happen to ensure that the East Central WI RPC is a long-term success?
Staff Memo

To: ECWRPC Standing Committees

From: Eric W. Fowle, AICP – Executive Director

Date: September 29, 2019

RE: Steering Committee Update

In an effort to better inform all Commissioners/Committees, routine reports on Steering Committee activities will be provided at each Standing Committee meeting.

The Steering Committee will have met twice during this quarter – August 28th and October 9th. The following major items were discussed or were/will be acted upon in some manner:

- 2-1/2 hour long 2020-2023 Strategic Plan Update Kickoff Workshop held on Aug. 28th
- Reviewed/Accepted 3rd Quarter Financial and Work Program Reports
- Acted on the 2020 Premium Sharing for Employee Health & Dental Benefits
- Reviewed the updated 2020 Budget
- Took action on the 2020 Staffing Plan
- Reviewed the list of 2020 Technical Assistance project requests.

The Committee will be meeting again in the November/December timeframe to formulate the Commission’s Strategic Plan Framework so that it can be further developed and approved in January, 2020.

Commissioners will see some of these items on the Quarterly Meeting Agenda in October; however, if you have questions please contact me at (920) 751-4770 or at efowle@ecwrpc.org.