

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Open Space and Environmental Management Committee
ECWRPC Offices, Menasha, WI
January 8, 2020

Committee Members Present:

DuWayne Federwitz, Chair Waupaca County
 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

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: Chair DuWayne Federwitz called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. No introductions were made as all sitting at the table were acquainted.

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 Mr. Schmeichel and seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

There was no public present.

ACTION ITEMS:

#1 Approval of July 10, 2019 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (Attachment #1) (Note: No quorum present at October 10, 2019 meeting, notes were included as Attachment #1A)

A motion to approve the summary of proceedings was made by Mr. Johnson with a second by Mr. Timm.

#2 Approvals of the 2020 Work Program Elements 1400 and 1600 & Budget

Mr. Fowle went through the 1400 and 1600 elements and budgets that they will incur for 2020. There were some questions on the hours for the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway project. Mr. Fowle stated that this program is still important in a regional capacity and work is still being done. Mr. Schmeichel made a motion to accept both elements in the work program. A second was made by Mr. Rettler. The motion passed unanimously.

#3 Review and Discussion of the Preliminary Draft of the ECWRPC 2020-2023 Strategic Plan

Mr. Fowle referred to the plan results within the packet. He discussed the priorities presented by the survey with impacts and outcomes that could reflect the work program items. Capacity, sustainability and efficiency of staff were brought up as well as budget dollars for what programs are needed to be worked on. The Committee relayed that a lot of the programs are overlapping and geographically represented of what is important for the commission to be working on. Projects, scope, and cost were discussed as some contracts went beyond the initial estimates.

Next, Mr. Fowle distributed a value ranking sheet that showed the results of the commissioners on a 1-5 scale per program activity. Discussion continued with the most important to the least. It was determined again that there were overlapping of programs and also represented by county geography of what was needed based on what Commissioners rated the activity at. Discussion continued on the levy dollars and grants coming in as well as running the Commission like a business. It was determined that the Committee wished to keep all programs as they found them important and more information may be needed. Without a historical sense other than not raising the levy in the last 12 years, a determination by consensus was made to not get rid of any of the programs and to keep them all. This will be brought back through the Steering Committee for more analysis and final decisions made at the Full Commission meeting in April.

A points summary that will be relayed to the Steering Committee is as follows:

1. *What general or specific comments does the Committee have on the Preliminary Draft Goals & Strategies, as well as the highlighted notes?*
 - General concurrence with Goals/Strategies noting that agreement amongst counties (a vision) needs to be made on issues regarding capacity and levy.
 - Committee knows there are reasons for every program Commission involved with.
 - Some program modifications, and improved focus on project management, may help with sustainability and scope.

- Increase efficiencies i.e. with over budget on time and extensions on projects – timeframes and deadlines.
 - Education and communication for those rural communities that are in need of help and who either didn't know we could offer assistance. (Money left on the table)
 - Committee could not see making deep cuts to the agency.
2. *What program/activity would you eliminate from the work program that fall within your Committee's jurisdiction?*
- Committee could not agree on elimination of any programs within its jurisdiction noting that more information on "real value" (ROI) vs. "perceived value" would be needed to make such a decision.
 - Many work program items are geographically specific and warranted in respect to urban vs. rural entities.
 - Overlapping of program items occur across the subject areas such as transportation, economic development, land use and the like.
3. *What program/activity would you consider eliminating from the work program that fall OUTSIDE your Committee's jurisdiction?*
- See above response.

The Committee was supportive of Steering Committee moving forward with the Program Analysis.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Announcements:

1. Quarterly Commission Meeting on January 31, 2020.
2. Staff has been working on templates for storm water factsheets that can be presented as informational items at meetings.
3. The Safe Routes to School Program hired a new employee part-time until May, Hannah Keckeisen. She is still a student at UWSP and will work full-time after graduation.

STAFF ITEMS:

Water Management Issues

In Mr. Verboomen's absence, Ms. Nau shared a handout on the White Clay Lake "Fish Sticks" project. Young trees will be brought over the ice and then sunk in the lake to provide spawning

habitat and help populate more fish within the lake. Proper permitting with the DNR has been obtained and the Sportsman Club is running the process.

Recreation Planning Activities Update

Ms. Nau gave a status report to the Committee on 2019 CORP adoptions.

Shawano County – December 18, 2019

City of Menasha – January 20, 2020

City of Shawano – January 15, 2020

City of Kiel – November 13, 2019

She discussed the new contracts for 2020 that are in the work program and is in the processing of confirming and securing the contracts for the City of New London, City of Waupaca, Village of Hortonville, and the Village of Mattoon.

NR-135 Metallic Mining Program

Mr. Konkle's conveyed to the committee that the budget for the program has been confirmed with a decrease in the dollar per acre charge for reclamation activities, (\$40 to \$28). He worked with Fox Crossing on a mine issue as well as compliance concerns for Shawano and Waupaca Counties. His time freed up towards the end of 2019 where he was able to assist staff on transportation related activities.

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway:

No report

GIS Related Projects and Updates:

Ms. Hogan stated she was working on wayfinding sign displays and designs for the Newton Blackmour and Solomon Trails. She gave an insight on some new GIS mapping software using LIDAR and other data as well as Arc Story Maps.

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 included:
 - Niagara Escarpment Geotourism Program
 - Ledge Tours / Ledge to Lake Tours
 - Learning – Educational Component with K-5
 - Events
 - Conservation
- Showed the ArcStoryMap for finding geotourism locations created by the Commission's GIS department and also drone videos of the escarpment per geographic area.

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 met most recently on November 18th and December 20th, 2019 to address and discuss a number of items, including:

Review of preliminary draft 2020-203 Strategic Plan Goals & Strategies. The Steering Committee would like to have continued discussions on:

1. Receiving input and feedback from other Standing Committees and Commissioners on prioritizing projects/programs to align the budget and work program, and;
 2. To hold a special full day meeting in February, 2020 to conduct a more thorough review of current Commission programs. Based on this, it is likely that this effort will be continued through the winter and early spring of 2020 with the goal being to have it adopted by the Commission at the April Quarterly Commission meeting;
- Need for a policy on providing technical assistance to communities on edge of member counties; Approval of preliminary list of 2020 Technical Assistance projects;
 - Preliminary discussion on potential for Native American “land acknowledgment” statements at
 - Commission related meetings;
 - Approval of comprehensive plan update local assistance contracts for C. Shawano, T. Caledonia
 - (Waupaca Co.), and T. Lessor (Shawano Co.);
 - Approval of Appleton (Fox Cities)and Oshkosh MPO Recommended Surface Transportation
 - Program-Urban Transportation Projects for funding;
 - Conducted the Executive Director’s Performance Evaluation and approval of 2020 contract.

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 completed its Farmland Preservation Plan and Zoning Ordinances. February 8, Sturgeon Spearing event

Winnebago County - Mr. Schmiechel relayed concerns on connection ATV/UTV trails utilizing town roads. The Towns Association is having a special Unit Meeting in the Town of Nepeuskun to discuss this on January 9. Ms. Nau will be in attendance to offer some information.

Waushara County – Mr. Timm stated that the County Board has now gone down to an 11 member entity as there were 2 who didn’t run.

Outagamie County – None

Menominee County – Mr. Johnson stated that they are also looking at putting “fish sticks” within Legend Lake to assist in spawning and habitat production. The Biologist is working with the county to accomplish this.

Waupaca County – Mr. Federwitz said their County Board is dwindling as well with four members not running again.

Next Meeting Time & Agenda

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.** at ECWRPC offices.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Schmiechel and seconded by Mr. Timm. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 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 2020 Meeting Dates:

*April 8, 2020
July 8, 2020
October 14, 2020*

Summary of Proceedings submitted respectively by Trish Nau, Principal Parks and Recreation Planner