

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

*Committee Members: Vacant (Chair), Alice Connors (Vice Chair), Allen Buechel, Mark Harris, Brian Smith, Ruth Winter, Jake Woodford*

**Place:** Virtual or In-Person Meeting - East Central Offices (400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100, Menasha)

**Date:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021

**Time:** 1:00PM

**Committee Members Present:**

Alice Connors, Vice Chair .....	Calumet County
Allen Buechel.....	Fond du Lac County
Aaron Jenson (Alt. for Brian Smith) .....	Waupaca County
Ruth Winter.....	Menominee County
Karen Harkness (Alt. for Jake Woodford) .....	Outagamie County
Mark Harris .....	Winnebago County

**ECWRPC Staff and Guests Present:**

Melissa Kraemer Badtke .....	Executive Director
Kevin Englebert .....	Assistant Director
Adam Pfefferle .....	GIS Specialist II
Erin Bonnin .....	Administrative Coordinator

**Agenda**

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Connors welcomed attendees to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**2) Roll Call**

**A. Introduction of Alternates, Staff, and Guests**

Mr. Englebert announced the ECWRPC staff in attendance.

**3) Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Sect 19.84 Regarding Open Meeting Requirements**

Mr. Englebert stated the meeting was posted in compliance with Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.84 regarding the Open Meetings requirement and that it was a legal meeting.

**4) Pledge of Allegiance**

**5) Approval of Agenda / Motion to Deviate**

Ms. Winter motioned to approve the agenda, Ms. Harkness seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6) Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**7) Action Items**

**A. Approval of the January 6, 2021 Economic Development Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings**

Mr. Jenson motioned to approve the summary of proceedings, Mr. Buechel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8) Informational / Discussion Items**

**A. Staff Report**

**1. 2021-2023 Planning Partnership Grant Update**

Mr. Englebert provided an overview of the background of the planning partnership grant and described how the funding is being utilized at East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission regarding staff activities and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. Englebert continued by providing an update on the current technical assistance projects. Mr. Englebert also highlighted the coordination concerning the ongoing pandemic recovery. Mr. Englebert also discussed the formation of a strategic planning process for Wisconsin's forestry sector and detailed the planning effort and goals.

**2. CARES Act Disaster Recovery and Economic Resiliency Grant Update**

Mr. Englebert provided an overview of the CARES Act grant and summarized the activities regarding the major components of the grant. Mr. Englebert highlighted that stakeholder interviews were taking place in the region and noted that staff have several more planned and upcoming. Mr. Englebert also noted the background research that was being conducted to investigate the data relating to COVID-19 economic impacts in the region(s) and explained the regional Economic Data Dashboard tool that will be used to assess the impacts of COVID-19 and how it will be a resource for the region going forward.

Mr. Pfefferle added that the tourism and retail chapters have been started and staff are currently working on a regional real estate section as well as an agricultural, forestry, fishing, and hunting section. Mr. Pfefferle also noted the

data source software being used, tools that will be available, and that staff are still in the design process of the dashboard.

Mr. Englebert also provided a request for qualifications submissions update regarding the small business and community technical assistance program. The request for qualifications was released last week and submissions are due toward the end of April.

## **B. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Discussion**

Mr. Englebert provided an update regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The act contains double the amount of funding than that of the CARES Act for EDA. A large portion of the funding is required to focus on the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors. A total of 7 applications were submitted for the CARES Act funding last year, 5 of which have been denied and two are still in process. Mr. Englebert will be reaching out to grantees whose applications have been denied in the past to see if they are willing to modify their applications or reapply for the new funding.

Discussion occurred around the possible parameters that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) will put on the application regarding outdoor recreation projects and when those guidelines were anticipated to be made available. Discussion also occurred around who would be able to apply for the funding and the application request that was submitted in the Fox Valley area.

## **C. New North Gold Shovel Program Participation**

Mr. Englebert provided an overview regarding the Gold Shovel Program and provided background of the program. The original memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, New North, and the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission has expired and negotiations have been initiated to renew the MOU. A challenge with the program is that there are not a lot of sites that are listed within the region. The goal of the program is to get as many sites listed as possible that are ready for development. Discussions are taking place as to what the program may look like going forward. Mr. Englebert provided an overview of the review process for the program and what the role of the regional planning commissions may look like moving forward.

Discussion took place regarding the direction that ECWRPC should take moving forward, whether or not this is a good use of ECWRPC staff resources and time, concerns regarding number of sites being submitted, the desire to see an increase in participation, use of private consultants moving forward for application assistance, and the option to try a renewed approach and remarketing the program.

There was committee consensus to move forward with the renewed approach and remarketing.

**D. County Roundtable Discussion**

Items included in the roundtable discussion were as follows: CDBG microbusiness grants, utility rent and mortgage assistance, and election changes.

Ms. Connors thanked Mr. Harris for his service on the Committee as this was his last Committee meeting.

**9) Upcoming Meetings**

- A. *Commission Meeting:*** *The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, April 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. An agenda and meeting materials will be forthcoming.*
- B. *Annual Meeting:*** *The Commission's Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the Quarterly Commission Meeting on Friday, April 30, 2021.*
- C. *Economic Development Committee Meeting:*** *The next Economic Development Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 1:00PM. Further details will be forthcoming.*

**10) Adjourn**

Ms. Connors declared the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.