

**Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting
Racine County Comprehensive Plan Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee**

DATE: May 7, 2009

TIME: 6:30 pm

PLACE: Racine County Ives Grove Auditorium
14200 Washington Ave
Sturtevant, WI

Attendance:

Jim Moyer, Town of Yorkville
Katie Simenson, City of Burlington
Rebecca Ewald, Village of Waterford
Audrey Viau, Village of Elmwood Park
Tom Roanhouse, Village of Waterford
Connie Mellem (Vice-Chairperson), Village of North Bay
Mike Weinkauff, Village of Rochester
Mark Janiuk, Village of Sturtevant
Paul Ryan, Town of Raymond
Ingrid Tiegel, Village of Mt. Pleasant
Ron Meyer, Village of Mt. Pleasant
Viki View-Peterson, Town of Burlington
Ken Hall, Racine County Economic Development & Land Use
Matt Sadowski, City of Racine
Kim Christman, Village of Union Grove
Mary Kacmarcik (Chairperson), Town of Waterford

Julie Anderson, Planning & Development
Dave Schilling, SEWRPC
Kristen Lie, Racine County UW-Extension

1. Roll Call

Mary Kacmarcik called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by circulating a sign-up sheet.

2. Approval of March 19, 2009 meeting minutes

Jim Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Mike Weinkauff. Connie Mellem provided two corrections. Upon a voice vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Review of additional text to be included in the preliminary draft of Chapter XVI, "Intergovernmental Cooperation Element," of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035

Dave Schilling of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) reviewed the revisions to the intergovernmental cooperation element, as suggested by MJAC members at the previous meeting, including changes to text regarding the Racine County Sheriff's Department and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority and additional examples of existing intergovernmental agreements among Racine County communities.

Connie Mellem made a motion to accept the additions. Ken Hall seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ron Meyer then made a motion to approve the complete intergovernmental cooperation element. Connie Mellem seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Review of the preliminary draft of Chapter XV, “Implementation Element,” of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035

Dave Schilling reviewed the preliminary draft of the implementation element, which contains information and recommendations regarding the comprehensive plan adoption and amendment procedures, and recommendations for the County and local governments to meet the State’s “consistency” requirement to make zoning and land division ordinances consistent with the comprehensive plan. Mr. Schilling noted that cities and villages will not require County involvement to amend their comprehensive plan, but that they should send amendments to their land use plan map to the County so they can be changed on the countywide map. The element also includes a list of the policies and programs that are considered the highest priorities for each of the plan elements in order to implement the comprehensive plan.

Ron Meyer requested that the recommendation to add an upland resource conservation district and a conservation subdivision design provision to the Mt. Pleasant general zoning ordinance be removed, as the change would hinder the Village’s current agricultural land preservation efforts. Rebecca Ewald requested that the same recommendation be removed for the Village of Waterford.

Mark Januik asked what was binding on village trustees, and other elected officials, when asking them to adopt the plan. Dave Schilling responded that the land use plan maps are the main force of the comprehensive plan, while much of the text provides more guidance in terms of encouraging or promoting certain types of development, but not mandating them.

Dave Schilling stated that additional text would be added to the element to indicate that communities need to evaluate the cost of comprehensive plan amendments and then determine a reasonable fee structure for the process.

Mr. Schilling completed the review by commenting on Map XV-1, Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory for the Racine County Planning Area: 2005, which is one example of how updated inventory data and new planning documents continue to change the comprehensive plan. He noted that several plans were currently underway or will be undertaken in the near future in Southeastern Wisconsin, including a regional housing plan, transportation jurisdictional plan, and an update to the farmland preservation plan.

Ken Hall made a motion to approve the implementation element. Motion was seconded by Ron Meyer. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Review of the preliminary draft of Chapter XVII, “Summary,” of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035

Dave Schilling reviewed the summary of the complete comprehensive plan, which includes basic information about the planning process, public participation, and the nine planning elements. Mark Janiuk made a motion to approve the summary chapter. Ken Hall seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Business

Julie Anderson reported that the public informational meetings were attended by approximately 45 people, and that community members had a wide range of questions about the plan, including “green” concerns and development specific to the City of Racine. Mike Weinkauff asked whether there had been any comments about the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail; Ms. Anderson replied that there had not.

Mark Januik asked when the plan document would be ready. Dave Schilling stated that SEWRPC was working on that now, and it should be completed prior to the first public hearing on the comprehensive plan, which is scheduled in the Town of Waterford on June 1, 2009. He stated that hard copies will be provided to each municipality and public library, as well as the County, adjacent counties, school districts, and utility districts; a pdf of the complete plan will also be made for the website, and for digital distribution in an effort to limit printing and mailing costs.

Jim Moyer asked how soon action on the comprehensive plan should be expected, following each community's public hearing. Dave Schilling stated that, unless major concerns about the plan arise at the public hearings, it was hoped that the community's planning commission would adopt a resolution recommending the plan's adoption by the local governing body immediately, and that town board/village board/common council adoption would follow soon after.

Dave Schilling stated that the policy, "For rural developments that utilize conservation subdivision designs, require a minimum of 50 percent of the development parcel to be permanently maintained in open space or agricultural uses," from Chapter X, "Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element" had created some concern in the Town of Burlington, and asked whether the committee felt the text should be changed. Discussion ensued regarding conservation subdivision ordinances in the County and the impacts of conservation subdivisions on issues such as farmland preservation and stormwater management. Ron Meyer commented that changing the wording from "require" to "consider" would not change the intent of the policy. Mike Weinkauff made a motion to change the text of the policy from "require" to "consider." Viki View-Peterson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed, with Katie Simensen voting nay.

Mark Janiuk made a motion to approve the comprehensive plan in its entirety, subject to changes as proposed and that the comprehensive plan be forwarded to Racine County and all 17 communities for public hearings and adoption. Tom Kramer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

It was decided that the minutes to the May meeting would be emailed to committee members for their review and approval.

7. Adjournment

On a motion made by Ken Hall and seconded by Tom Roanhouse, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.