

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

**DATE:** January 29, 2009

**TIME:** 6:30 pm

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

**Attendance:**

Mary Kacmarcik (Chairperson), Town of Waterford  
Connie Mellem (Vice-Chairperson), Village of North Bay  
Tom Roanhouse, Village of Waterford  
Matt Sadowski, City of Racine  
Tom Kramer, Town of Norway  
Ken Hall, Racine County Economic Development & Land Use  
Ingrid Tiegel, Village of Mt Pleasant  
Ron Meyer, Village of Mt Pleasant  
Rebecca Ewald, Village of Waterford  
Paul Ryan, Town of Raymond  
Pete Christensen, Village of Wind Point  
Terry McMahan, Town of Yorkville  
Bob Miller, City of Burlington  
Vicky View, Town of Burlington  
Julie Anderson, Planning & Development  
Dave Schilling, SEWRPC  
Tom Moes, SEWRPC  
Kristen Lie, Racine County UW-Extension

**1. Roll Call**

Mary Kacmarcik called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Roll call was taken by circulating a sign-up sheet.

**2. Approval of November 20, 2008 meeting minutes**

Terry McMahan made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Paul Ryan. Kristen Lie noted that a couple revisions had been made: Paul Ryan's name was added to the attendance, and conflicting information regarding the Regional Water Supply Plan was excised from the minutes. Julie Anderson also noted that a public informational meeting regarding the water supply plan will be conducted in the Ives Grove Auditorium on Monday, February 2, 2009, starting at 5 pm, with a presentation scheduled for 6 pm. Revised minutes from the November 2008 MJAC meeting will be posted on the website. Upon a voice vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Review of the preliminary draft of Chapter XIII, "Utilities and Community Facilities Element," of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035**

Tom Moes of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) reviewed the information and recommendations presented in Chapter XIII, "Utilities and Community Facilities Element." He also noted that some information was still needed from local governments regarding their community facilities projects and plans, and that much of the information presented in the element was taken from regional and local planning efforts. Mr. Moes stated that the element was tied to existing condition data in Chapter V, "Inventory of Utilities and Community Facilities," and by law, the element must look at projections and future needs for utilities and community facilities in the County, including the provision of an approximate timetable for the expansion,

rehabilitation, and replacing of existing facilities and the construction of new facilities, and an assessment of future needs for government services related to such utilities and facilities.

Tom Moes then reviewed the element by section, including: key findings from the inventory background information in Chapter V; issues identified through public input; timetables, projections, and needs assessment; and objectives, policies and programs. In the utilities section, Mr. Moes highlighted sanitary sewer systems facilities planning, stormwater management planning, regional planning for water supply, lake management, and telecommunications, and State alternative energy programs. Under community facilities, Mr. Moes highlighted the increase in consolidating fire and rescue facilities, due to increased population growth, operational efficiencies, and budget concerns. Regarding fire and rescue response times, Mr. Moes noted that that two response rate standards had been mapped—one reflecting 1.5-mile and 4-mile radii (Map XIII-4) and one reflecting 4-minute and 16-minute response times (Map XIII-5). Additional text will be added to the chapter to further detail how the National Fire Emergency Association determined these standards. Pete Christensen and Matt Sadowski asked whether Map XIII-5 could be changed to show the 16-minute response time areas in the urban communities, even though the urban standard is four minutes, since the current map seemed to suggest that fire and rescue services would not be able to reach areas within 16 minutes. SEWRPC will make that revision.

Julie Anderson noted that the southernmost fire station in the Town of Norway had moved one-half mile north from its position on the map, which may have an impact on the response time map. Tom Kramer also commented that the station had moved as of November 2008. It was decided that SEWRPC will make the change to Maps XIII-4 and 5, and footnote the change in Chapter V, “Inventory of Utilities and Community Facilities.” Viki View-Peterson also stated that the fire station in the Town of Burlington that is currently mapped on the east side of Browns Lake should be moved to the south of the lake.

Tom Moes then reviewed the on-street and off-street bike and pedestrian system, as mapped in XIII-7, which is a composite of known State, County and local plans. Pete Christensen asked about the bike path as mapped in XIII-7, raising some issues with the trails as marked within the Village of Wind Point. He noted that Wind Point has no provision for bike trails in its plan, and wanted to know if the village had any responsibilities in relation to the trail. Tom Moes stated that the mapped bike path is listed on state plans and the Racine County website as part of the 100-mile trail around Racine County. Ken Hall noted that several of the on-street trails mapped in XIII-7, and listed as bike routes on the Racine County website, are not safe for bicyclists, and asked whether more language could be added to encourage the development of safe bike routes, especially off-street bike paths as an alternative to on-street routes, particularly along Seven Mile Road. He further stated the need for a safe bike trail that spanned from eastern to western portions of the county. Julie Anderson also asked whether recommendations could be added to consider public-private partnerships to build off-street bike paths in power line easement areas and utility corridors. It was decided that SEWRPC would include additional recommendations about the development of safe bike and pedestrian paths throughout the County. Mr. Moes will also complete the Safe Routes to School background information for the appendix.

Tom Moes finished discussing the community facilities section with an overview of the general land use zoning categories for medical facilities, nursing homes, community assisted living, and child care facilities. The majority of these facilities were zoned in residential areas. Mr. Moes noted that the County and local communities should continue work with stakeholders to site these facilities in residential areas to help achieve the vision and goals of promoting an integrated land use and transportation design, as well as encouraging mixed-income communities.

Tom Moes concluded the element review by summarizing the objectives, policies and programs, noting that the plan tries to be comprehensive in scope and take into account priorities as raised in public input, which resulted in 21 overall objectives, 22 utility-specific programs, and 34 community facility-specific policies. One additional objective and one additional policy were also drafted for inclusion in the element, and were provided to the committee in a handout; these were:

- New Objective: Provide efficient and economical utility and community facilities and services at the lowest possible costs.
- New Utilities Policy: Continue to prepare Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) to help identify major public projects, including the expansion of public sewer and water services.

Mr. Moes noted that the programs included in the element will also be added to the Racine County Smart Growth website, on the technical resources page. Rebecca Ewald asked where the website information would be stored following the conclusion of the comprehensive planning process. Julie Anderson and Kristen Lie will consult with County Information Services and UW-Extension to ensure that the information continues to be available.

Tom Moes stated that SEWRPC had received comments on minor revisions to the Utilities and Community Facilities Element text; these will be incorporated into a revised draft.

Bob Miller made a motion to approve Chapter XIII, "Utilities and Community Facilities Element," as presented to the committee. The motion was seconded by Connie Mellem, and passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

#### **4. Other Business**

Ingrid Tiegel stated that the American Planning Association's annual national conference would be held in the Twin Cities, MN, this year, and she encouraged MJAC members to consider attending.

Matt Sadowski stated that the City of Racine has started work on its comprehensive plan, and asked that interested MJAC members participate in the online public opinion survey that is currently underway. The survey will close on February 5, 2009.

Dave Schilling reminded the MJAC that several communities still have to return the community facilities survey that was initially distributed in December 2008. He also stated that all local communities have endorsed their 2035 land use plan maps, and that SEWRPC staff would be compiling the maps to create the County's land use plan map for the Land Use Element. SEWRPC will also be compiling the projections for population and employment, as selected by local communities.

Regarding a question raised by Ken Hall about updating the plan, Dave Schilling stated that according to state law, the comprehensive plan must be reviewed every 10 years. This issue will be addressed in the Implementation Element. Cities and villages may amend by ordinance their comprehensive plans and send these amendments to the County. However, Mr. Schilling noted that towns, because they are under County zoning and land division ordinances, would have to request that the County revise the plan by ordinance. Julie Anderson stated that no one wanted to see projects delayed due to the comprehensive planning law, and she foresaw that town amendments would be conducted in batches at certain times throughout the year. Ms. Anderson also stated that this amendment issue would have to be further discussed with the County Board of Supervisors, which will decide the best option to handle the frequency of town comprehensive amendments. She noted that if the comprehensive planning is completed well at this stage, then there will likely be fewer amendments necessary.

#### **5. Determination of next meeting date**

Julie Anderson announced that the next meeting dates would be Thursday, February 19, 2009 and Thursday, March 19, 2009.

Ms. Anderson then asked how many MJAC meetings would be necessary before starting public informational meetings in each municipality to gain input and comments. Dave Schilling stated that the remaining elements are Land Use, Intergovernmental Cooperation and Implementation, and Chapter VII, "Projections" still needs to be completed and approved by the MJAC. He stated that public hearings on the plan could start in May 2009. Mary Kacmarcik asked about the grant timeline, and Mr. Schilling responded that the grant runs until July 23,

2009. Ms. Kacmarcik then asked about the format of the public hearings, and whether they could be appended to a community's board meeting. Dave Schilling said that was a possibility, and that they would consist of a summary presentation, a question and answer session, and public comments. Ron Meyer noted that in Mt. Pleasant, they had more success gathering useful input by promoting public hearings as open houses, which made residents feel more comfortable about voicing their opinions. Paul Ryan asked whether the committee's plan was to have all the communities approve the draft comprehensive plan, and then bring it to the County board, which Dave Schilling affirmed.

Mr. Schilling also explained how the plan will document the consolidation of the Town and Village of Rochester, stating that the town and village data will be kept separate in the inventory chapters, but the plan elements will refer to the "Village of Rochester."

## **6. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ken Hall and seconded by Terry McMahon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.