

Kenosha County
Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (MJAC)
(“Smart Growth”)

MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2008

Present: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Fred Ekornaas, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Tom Kerkman to approve the April 29, 2008 MJAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeff Labahn and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC representatives.

Review and possible action on revised Chapter VIII, “Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element,” of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Rick Kania of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) reviewed the key revisions to Chapter VIII, “Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources.” The revisions were suggested by participating local communities, and include the following:

- The addition of: “The Kenosha/Racine Land Trust recently purchased its first land in Kenosha County in the Town of Bristol, which is called the Jean McGraw Memorial Preserve, consisting of approximately 15 acres of wetlands and upland woodlands with public access.” (p.13)
- The addition of the italicized: “Preserve and protect Kenosha County’s agriculture and farmlands *in non-urbanizing areas.*” (p.16)
- The additional policy: “Encourage the use of development transitions between urban development (served with sanitary sewer) and agricultural development using, where practicable, open space development concepts such as rural cluster and other cluster development as the transitional development type.” (p.18)
- The addition of the italicized: “The City and villages should consider limiting the use of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) districts *by first focusing* on redevelopment and infill areas within developed portions of the city or village, *and then* using TIFs to convert land on the outskirts of developed areas from agricultural to urban uses.” (p.20)
- The addition of the following objective: “Continue to protect upland and lowland portions of environmental corridors and other upland and lowland areas through enforcement of conservation district regulations set forth in City and Village Zoning Ordinances.” (p.26)
- The additional policy: “Encourage the conservation of groundwater and surface water resources for water supply in Kenosha County.” (p.27)
- The addition of the italicized: “Support the development of land use patterns and regulations to effectively meet the nonmetallic needs of the County while limiting the effects of extractive operations (dust, noise, and truck traffic) on County residents *and without adversely impacting or destroying delineated environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.*” (p.32)
- The addition of the italicized: “Encourage full exploitation of existing and future mining sites, in accordance with approved reclamation plans *without adversely impacting or destroying delineated environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.*” (p.32)

All revisions were accepted by the MJAC, and will be included in a second draft of the chapter, which will be distributed to communities and MJAC members, and available on the Kenosha County Smart Growth website. Approval of Chapter VIII, "Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element," was deferred until the MJAC had the opportunity to review the revised draft.

Rick Kania then briefly introduced Robbie Robinson, Community Assistance Planner with SEWRPC; Mr. Robinson will be replacing Kate Madison on the Kenosha County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. Mr. Kania also re-introduced Nancy Anderson, who will be rejoining the Kenosha County planning process later this summer.

Review and possible action on Chapter XI, "Transportation Element," of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Robbie Robinson reviewed the information presented in the draft element, which included goals, objectives, policies and programs to guide the future development various transportation modes in Kenosha County. Modes addressed in this element include: public transit, transportation for persons with compromised mobility and transit-dependent users; arterial streets and highways; collector and land access streets; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; railroads; air transportation; and water transportation. Using data from Chapter IV, "Inventory of Existing Land Uses and Transportation Facilities and Services," and public input gathered from various public participation efforts, the following transportation issues in Kenosha County were identified: multi-modal transportation, transit, transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, airport, interregional transportation, and streets and highways. Each issue was addressed through specific goals, with accompanying objectives, policies and programs.

Peggy Herrick stated that the Village of Pleasant Prairie Plan Commission had not yet had the opportunity to fully review the transportation element, but following further discussion, they were likely to request additional emphasis on the expansion of transit services within the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Jeff Labahn stated that the City of Kenosha had a similar request, and would also require more time to discuss the draft element.

Nancy Washburn asked whether the transportation element was flexible enough to accommodate changes in people's choice of transportation mode, citing the increased use of motorized scooters as one example.

Pat Finnemore noted that, to his knowledge, there are only a few people working on the expansion of bike and pedestrian trails in eastern Kenosha County, and these trails do not accommodate scooters. Nancy Anderson stated that the bicycle element of the regional transportation plan calls for the addition of bicycle lanes to be considered and implemented (when appropriate) on all arterial streets except freeways; these lanes would accommodate scooters. However, she noted that scooters might be incompatible with bike and pedestrian travel, and therefore might not be accommodated on off-street paths. Nancy Washburn also raised the issue of the availability and safety of bicycle and scooter parking, noting the higher theft rate of these vehicles. Nancy Anderson stated that there was a recommendation for increased availability of parking for bikes, but that the issue of safety and security of the vehicles could be added.

Fred Ekornaas commented that the bicycle transportation was unlikely to be a viable transportation mode in Kenosha County, beyond recreational use. He further noted that the great majority of County residents were unlikely to use any transportation options other than personal vehicles for commuting to

work, especially due to a large percentage residents working outside the County and the County's land use patterns. Pat Finnemore agreed that this was the case for the rural portions of the County, but he noted that the City of Kenosha and the Village of Pleasant Prairie, and other areas with higher densities might want to examine how to support alternate modes of transportation. Nancy Washburn added that younger generations are showing support for "green" lifestyle alternatives, and the comprehensive plan should consider the changes in transportation behaviors and attitudes that may ensue.

Lon Weinke, Chair of the Village of Twin Lakes Community Growth Commission, commented that most of the transportation plans address only higher density areas, and have little bearing in rural communities such as Twin Lakes. He added that mass transit options were infeasible in these communities without exponential tax increases, and that ridership would never be adequate to support their implementation.

Approval of Chapter XI, "Transportation Element," was deferred to a later meeting.

Status of Post Card Responses Regarding Local Comprehensive Plan Reports: Nancy Anderson stated that SEWRPC had been contacted by almost all the participating local governments on the issue of community-level comprehensive plans. The City of Kenosha and the Village of Pleasant Prairie will be preparing their own plans, utilizing data from the multi-jurisdictional plan; the Village of Silver Lake and the Towns of Bristol, Brighton and Somers will adopt the multi-jurisdictional plan; and the Towns of Salem and Wheatland will be working with SEWRPC to prepare their plans.

Citizen Comments: None

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: Annie Jones stated that, in accordance with the Public Participation Plan, a *Community Chat* had been conducted on the topic of Agricultural and Natural Resources. Guests included Rose Skora, Kenosha/Racine County UW-Extension Agriculture Educator, Dan Treloar, Kenosha County Planning & Development, and John Holloway, an MJAC member. The *Community Chat* will air on Sundays at 10:30 pm and Tuesdays at 9:00 am on Kenosha Cable Channel 14 throughout the month of July. The *Community Chat* will also be available on the Kenosha County Smart Growth website.

Next Meeting Date: Nancy Anderson stated that there would not be a meeting in July; the next meeting will be Tuesday, August 26, 2008. The Utilities and Community Facilities Element will be reviewed.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Morris, seconded by Tom Kerkman, and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC members. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen Lie, Kenosha/Racine Community Planning Educator
Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development

Approved: August 26, 2008