

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 29, 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 Jeff Butler to approve the February 26, 2008 MJAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Morris and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC representatives.

Review and possible action on revised Chapter III, “Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources,” 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 III, “Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources.” These included additional information on the following topics: agricultural land evaluation (LE) values for Kenosha County cropland (Page III-4, Table III-3, and Map III-5); potential sources of sand, gravel, clay and peat (Page III-8 and Map III-10) and depth to bedrock and potential sources of crushed or building stone (Page III-9 and Map III-11); groundwater recharge potential (Page III-16, Table III-14, and Map III-16); invasive plants and animals (Page III-20 and Figures III-1 and III-2); and lands under protective easements (Pages III-23 and III-24, Table III-23, and Map III-22). Rick Kania also noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is finalizing an update on floodplains information, and that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has completed an update to the wetlands information through the year 2005, which is reflected in the chapter. He further noted that SEWRPC plans to update the environmental corridor and isolated natural resource area information to reflect 2005 conditions, which will hopefully be completed before the comprehensive plan is adopted by Kenosha County.

Nancy Washburn asked John Roth about Kenosha County’s process for lands placed in conservation trusts or easements; she further asked whether the County maintained a centralized map for all such lands, particularly for developers. Mr. Roth responded that there is not currently a defined process, but that he expected the County would maintain such a map in the future.

A motion to approve the revised Chapter III, “Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources,” subject to revisions as requested by local communities, was made by Randy Kerkman and seconded by Bill Morris. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Review and possible action on Chapter VIII, “Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element,” of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Rick Kania reviewed the information contained in Chapter VIII, “Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element” of the Kenosha County Comprehensive Plan. This information started with a summary of the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a comprehensive planning law, which is set forth in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, requirements in regards to the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element. Part 1 of Chapter VIII provides a summary of agricultural, natural, and cultural resource programs and conservation techniques. This part focuses on government programs that increase the availability of conservation and preservation funding in Kenosha County, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Working Lands Initiative, Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Historic Homeowners Income Tax Credit. Some of the

conservation techniques highlighted in the chapter include conservation easements, conservation subdivisions, lot averaging, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).

Dan Treloar requested a couple revisions to the draft regarding the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Soil and Water Resource Management program. Mr. Treloar commented that Kenosha does not currently have a CREP and asked to strike the last sentence under the Soil and Water Resource Management Program heading on page 7. The sentence is concerning eligibility for Wisconsin's soil and water resource management program.

Parts 2, 3, and 4 of the element outline the comprehensive plan's agricultural, natural, and cultural resources goals, objectives, policies, and programs. Mr. Kania reviewed the issues that were identified relating to the element; each issue has recommended goals, objectives, policies and programs intended to address it. Issues included: management of productive agricultural areas; farmland protection; viability of agribusiness; environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitats; surface and groundwater resources and watersheds; floodplain, wetlands, and severe structural and severe wet soils; Lake Michigan; nonmetallic mineral resources; invasive species; environmental health; parks, outdoor recreation, and open space preservation; historic resources; archaeological resources; local historical societies and museums; and cultural venues, events, and organizations.

Randy Kerkman made a motion to defer approval of the draft chapter until the next MJAC meeting; the motion was seconded by Tom Kerkman. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Status on Staffing, Draft Chapters, Selection of Local Population and Employment Projections, and Community Base Maps and Existing 2007 Land Uses: Rick Kania reported that Kate Madison accepted a position with UW-Milwaukee, and Robbie Robinson would take her place as Community Assistance Planner for the Kenosha County comprehensive planning process. He also noted that Washington and Ozaukee Counties had recently adopted their comprehensive plans, and SEWRPC was currently working with their local governments to complete the local plans. Mr. Kania stated that when this process was complete, Nancy Anderson would resume working on the Kenosha County plan.

Rick Kania then briefly reviewed the Kenosha County Comprehensive Plan Chapter Schedule/Status document, which had been requested by Pat Finnemore at the February MJAC meeting. Some local community population and household projections were provided in Table VII-9; Mr. Kania noted that four communities participating in the multi-jurisdictional plan had not yet provided their projections, and he encouraged MJAC members to contact SEWRPC if they wanted assistance. Mr. Kania reported that the community base maps and existing land use maps have been updated to 2005, and needed to be updated through 2007. He also commented that in order to develop the Land Use Element this summer, local land use maps for each community need to be completed shortly, and he again encouraged MJAC members to contact SEWRPC if they required assistance with this process.

Citizen Comments: None

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: None

Next Meeting Date: Rick Kania stated that, due to staffing issues, he was currently uncertain whether the Transportation Element would be completed in time for the regularly scheduled MJAC meeting, May 27, 2008. Therefore, the next MJAC meeting will take place either on May 27, 2008 or June 24, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the Kenosha County Center. The comprehensive planning team will contact MJAC members when the date is finalized.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen Lie".

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

Approved: June 24, 2008