

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

MEETING MINUTES

November 25, 2008

Present: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Fred Ekornaas, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Jeff Butler to approve the October 28, 2008 MJAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Thomas Kerkman and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC representatives.

Presentation on Regional Water Supply Plan—Preliminary Recommendations for Kenosha County: Robert Biebel of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) presented information from the preliminary recommended Regional Water Supply Plan, which included background on the water supply plan, information about the general hydrology of the region, water conservation measures, alternative plans to supply water to communities in the region, evaluations of each alternative, and the preliminary recommended composite plan for water supply in southeastern Wisconsin. Mr. Biebel noted that Kenosha County and its communities have detailed plans for current and future water supply needs, and these plans were incorporated into the regional plan. Kenosha County communities are recommended to use the base or intermediate level water conservation programs, which will provide a four to eight percent reduction in average daily demand. The initially preferred water supply plan relies on the use of Lake Michigan water for communities in the Greater Kenosha area (City of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie, Somers, and eastern Bristol), while areas in the western portion of the county would continue to rely on groundwater sources. For Kenosha County, the cost of the new facilities and programs are expected to be about \$12 per person per year. Mr. Beibel also announced that another public informational meeting would be conducted for residents and stakeholders in January 2009.

Nancy Washburn introduced herself as a developer with MasterCraft, and asked what measures or tools were available to developers, particularly of residential subdivisions, to assist with groundwater recharge. Mr. Biebel commented that retention ponds and recharge basins would help to return water to the groundwater system, although the clay soils in the eastern part of the County limit the use of stormwater management facilities that enhance groundwater recharge (also see the recommendations on page 3 of these minutes under the discussion of Chapter VIII for additional suggestions regarding water recharge).

Follow-up on Discussion of Land Use Plan Categories and Plan Implementation Strategies from October MJAC Meeting: Nancy Anderson of SEWRPC reviewed the discussion from the October 2008 advisory committee meeting regarding the land use categories. She noted that, following meetings with two of the towns that do not currently have a land use plan map, it was decided to separate the “Agricultural, Rural Residential, and Open Lands” category into “Agricultural and Open Lands” and “Rural Residential” categories for the County’s 2035 land use plan map. This alternative had been suggested by the planner serving the Towns of Bristol, Salem, and Wheatland prior to the October MJAC meeting.

Ms. Anderson also reviewed revisions made to the SEWRPC recommendation regarding consistency between comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances and maps. Rather than creating a transition overlay district on a community zoning map, the recommendation is that the comprehensive plan serve as a guide and may include a map that indicates parcels that will be rezoned over time to bring the zoning map into conformance with the land use plan map. Property owners may also request rezoning to achieve consistency. Ms. Anderson also highlighted the change to the recommendation regarding farmed and nonfarmed wetlands and stated that primary

environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas should be placed in a conservancy or other appropriate zoning district when a preliminary plat, rezoning application, or other zoning approval is requested. The recommendation also states that wetlands and surface waters should be placed in a Lowland Conservancy zoning district, and woodlands, steep slopes, and other components of upland environmental corridors should be placed in an Upland Conservancy district. Farmed wetlands should remain in agricultural zoning as long as farming continues on the parcel. Wetlands currently identified as farmed wetlands should be placed in a lowland conservancy district when farming ceases and an application for urban development of the parcel is approved by the government having zoning authority.

Review and Possible Action on Revised Chapter XI, “Transportation Element,” of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Nancy Anderson reviewed the revisions to Chapter XI, “Transportation Element.” Some of the comments from local communities included in the revisions are:

- City of Kenosha requested an additional objective supporting the creation of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and provision of dedicated public funding for public transit services. The City also requested an objective to continue investment in, and possible expansion of, the streetcar in the core area of the City.
- Village of Pleasant Prairie commented on the need for equitable funding for transit and stated their intention to expand transit services in the Village. Additional information was also provided about a new bus service to the Rec Plex for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Town of Paris voiced concern about the land uses around the IH-94 interchanges, and noted that there should be more opportunities for communication and cooperation among local governments, the County, and State agencies.
- Several communities requested additional information about, and emphasis on, the development of bicycle and pedestrian trails and facilities.

Ms. Anderson noted additional handouts at the meeting regarding recommendations from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority to Governor Doyle, and recommendations for Kenosha County from the draft Connections 2030 Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan prepared by WisDOT. Len Brandrup suggested that a general policy be added to the chapter relating to support for inter-regional transportation connections proposed by WisDOT. Ms. Anderson drew the committee’s attention to the WisDOT memo highlighting the importance of access management when developing the comprehensive plan. She stated that Morgan Peterson, Planning Engineer with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation was present at the meeting and would answer any questions from the Committee regarding access management.

Len Brandrup, Director of the City of Kenosha Transportation Department and member of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (RTA), commented that the only way to implement the recommendations put forth in the comprehensive plan and WisDOT’s 2030 Connections plan would be to establish a RTA, as well as dedicated funding for public transportation in the region. He further commented that businesses look for solid transit systems when locating to an area, and, although he acknowledged the challenge of funding public transportation in the current economy, he stated that transit expansion was necessary in order for southeastern Wisconsin to continue to be the economic engine of the State.

It was decided that the advisory committee would defer approval of Chapter XI, “Transportation Element,” to a future meeting.

Review and Possible Action on Revised Chapter III, “Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources,” of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Nancy Anderson reviewed the revisions to Chapter III, “Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources.” These included updated information from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the new wetland inventory, which includes a “farmed wetland” category, defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as “land that is partially altered but because of wetness, cannot be farmed every year.” Ms. Anderson noted that farm operations can continue on such land; however, these areas will be shown as an overlay of the 2035 land use plan map to signify that they may be placed in a lowland conservancy district when farming activities cease and an application

for urban development of the parcel is approved by the government having zoning authority. She stated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently conducting a Map Modernization Program, which will incorporate detailed floodplains identified by SEWRPC through watershed and floodplain studies for the river and stream reaches listed in Chapter III, and approximate floodplains identified by FEMA for unstudied stream reaches. The Map Modernization Program will result in updated floodplain maps for both incorporated and unincorporated areas in Kenosha County. Rick Kania of SEWRPC stated that Map III-13 may be revised following the FEMA update. Nancy Anderson noted that the park and open space inventories for the county and local communities had been updated with edits provided by each government. Ms. Anderson also noted the addition of information about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s revision of the eight-hour ozone standard from 85 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb, as well as its determination on nonattainment designation for particulate matter, which is expected in December 2008. Kenosha County is not included in the proposed nonattainment area for particulate matter, but three counties in Southeastern Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha Counties) are included.

John Holloway made a motion to approve the revised Chapter III, "Inventory of Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources." Jeff Butler seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Review and Possible Action on Revised Chapter VIII, "Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element," of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County: Nancy Anderson reviewed the revisions to draft Chapter VIII, "Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element," which included the addition of a program to continue agricultural uses, preservation of natural resources, or residential development at an average density of at least five acres per home in areas that have been identified as having very high or high groundwater recharge capabilities and, if urban development is allowed, that development and stormwater management practices such as permeable pavement, set-aside open space, landscaping with drought-tolerant plants, and other groundwater recharge features be integrated into the site design to help preserve groundwater recharge capability. Policies regarding nonmetallic mineral mining were revised to include the provision that activities should not adversely impact or destroy delineated environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Map VIII-2, showing potential water trails for major lakes and rivers in Kenosha County, Map VII-3, showing constraints to the extraction of sand, gravel and crushed or building stone in the County, and Map VIII-4, showing potential areawide recreational bike trails for southeastern Wisconsin, were added to the element. Nancy Anderson concluded by commenting on the addition of Appendix Q, which provides a summary of the Great Lakes Compact.

Jeff Butler made a motion to approve the revised Chapter VIII. Bill Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. As part of the approval, school district recreational sites shown as Park and Open Space Sites on Maps VIII-2 and VIII-3 will be removed.

Peggy Herrick and Pat Finnemore stated some concerns about the local community park and open space inventories in Chapter III, which they will share with SEWRPC individually after the meeting.

Citizen Comments: None

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: Nancy Anderson announced that the next advisory committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Morris, seconded by Thomas Kerkman, and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the MJAC members. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Approved: January 27, 2009