

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

**DATE:** August 21 2008

**TIME:** 6:30 pm

**PLACE:** Racine County Ives Grove Conference Room A  
14200 Washington Ave  
Sturtevant, WI

**Attendance:**

Mary Kacmarcik (Chairperson), Town of Waterford  
 Connie Mellem (Vice-Chairperson), Village of North Bay  
 Jim Moyer, Town of Yorkville  
 Tom Roanhouse, Village of Waterford  
 Matt Sadowski, City of Racine  
 Katie Simenson, City of Burlington  
 Tom Kramer, Town of Norway  
 Mark Januik, Village of Sturtevant  
 Jim Celano, Town of Dover  
 Audrey Viau, Village of Elmwood Park  
 Ken Hall, Racine County Economic Development & Land Use  
 Pete Christensen, Village of Wind Point  
 Bill Schalk, Village of Wind Point  
 Ingrid Tiegel, Village of Mt Pleasant  
 Paul Ryan, Town of Raymond  
 Gary Hanson, Village of Union Grove  
 Dave Schilling, SEWRPC  
 Tom Moes, SEWRPC  
 Kristen Lie, Racine County UW-Extension

**Arrived Later:**

Mike Weinkauff, Town of Rochester  
 Julie Anderson, Planning & Development

**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 June 19, 2008 meeting minutes**

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

**3. Review of preliminary draft of Chapter X, "Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources," of the SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035***

Dave Schilling of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions (SEWRPC) reviewed the information in Draft Chapter X, including background data on these resources (from Chapter III, "Inventory of Existing Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources"), and plan recommendations for the conservation and effective management of the following: groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas,

threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitats, nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, opens spaces, recreational resources, and historical and cultural resources.

Referring to Map X-2, Ken Hall asked how it was determined which agency (State or County) would acquire land for open space purposes, and whether these recommendations had any impact on the possibility of obtaining stewardship funds for the acquisition. Dave Schilling stated that generally the State was selected to purchase areas which are designated NA-1 or contain areas located within Department of Natural Resources project areas, while County typically is selected when the proposed area is adjacent to land that is already County-owned. He further stated that the County's park and open space plan was developed to fulfill eligibility requirements to obtain stewardship funding. Recreation-intensive parks will be addressed in the Utilities and Community Facilities Element.

Jim Celano questioned the lack of prime agricultural land in central Racine County, as mapped in Map X-1. Dave Schilling replied that only the Towns of Burlington and Waterford and the Village of Mt. Pleasant have designated prime agricultural lands in their jurisdictions.

Paul Ryan and Mike Weinkauff corrected the density requirements for residential development in the Towns of Raymond and Rochester, respectively. Dave Schilling then asked whether there should be a policy addressing the percentage of open space required in conservation subdivisions. Discussion ensued about conservation subdivisions and their effectiveness in preserving farmland. Mike Weinkauff noted that there should be more emphasis on making sure that structures are built in appropriate areas—for example, not in a floodplain—which would also assist in preserving open space. Jim Celano commented that, in his experience, developers tended to ignore the preservation aspect of conservation subdivisions, and he stated that food security for future generations should be a priority. Ken Hall asked how SEWRPC had calculated the projected amount of farmland lost by the year 2035 (6%, or 11 square miles), and how that amount compared to acres lost in previous years. Dave Schilling replied that the project took into account the local land use plans and planned urban service areas, and that historical data relating to loss of agricultural land was presented in earlier chapters of the report, which he will provide at the next MJAC meeting.

Drainage issues were also a primary concern during this discussion. Jim Celano stated that there should be a countywide program to map drainage tile locations, which Tom Moes noted is one of the plan policy recommendations. Mike Weinkauff and Jim Moyer added that a policy should be in place to hold someone accountable (either the landowner or the municipality) for repairing tiles. Paul Ryan commented that there should be a policy recommending a countywide stormwater management program. It was decided that SEWRPC would add policies to address these issues. Furthermore, Katie Simenson raised the concern that the agricultural and natural resources implementing policies tend to use more “encourage-type” language. Without offering any specific examples of new policies, Ms. Simenson requested that SEWRPC and the MJAC consider whether it is possible to add more “restrictive-type” policy language. Dave Schilling asked the MJAC members to carefully review the policies to ensure they reflected community concerns. The implementation of the natural and cultural resources policies will be discussed further at the next MJAC meeting. Action on the element was deferred to a future meeting.

#### **4. Review of preliminary draft of additional text to be included in Chapter XIV, “Economic Development Element,” of the SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035***

Tom Moes reviewed the additions to the Economic Development, many of which came from “Higher Expectations: A Workforce Development Strategy for Racine County.” This strategic plan was adopted by the Racine County Board in May 2008, and outlines challenges to employment in Racine and strategies to address the issues. Two objectives were also added to the element as a result of “Higher Expectations”:

- A broad and powerful coalition will be created to ensure more truly job-ready workers, dramatically reducing the number of individuals and families trapped in the cycle of poverty.
- Public transportation systems should adapt to meet the changing demands of work and personal responsibilities.

The MJAC also watched the short informational video about the workforce strategy, provided by Workforce Development and available on the Workforce Development Center website at: <http://www.wdc.racineco.com/>.

Discussion then followed about the implementation of the workforce development plan. Connie Mellem noted that the plan did not always specify who would be accountable for ensuring that the plan is realized. Ken Hall commented that the Racine County Board had raised similar concerns about what resources are available for implementation, especially considering that the county budget is limited. Julie Anderson replied that county departments and other community organizations had been selected to lead each strategy outlined in the plan. As an example, Ms. Anderson stated that she and SEWRPC are leading the transportation strategy, and plan to conduct a countywide transportation study in the near future as a first step.

Tom Moes also noted that text had been added to highlight brownfield remediation efforts in the City of Racine, utilizing grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Ken Hall made a motion to accept the additions to Chapter XIV. The motion was seconded by Mike Weinkauff, and passed unanimously upon a voice vote.

### **5. Other Business**

Kristen Lie reported that the Racine County Fair Smart Growth Information Table was well received by fairgoers, like last year. Ms. Lie then shared information about upcoming workshops, including UW-Extension's Southeastern Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop & Expo, RC&D's Going Green: Sustainable Communities and Farms, DATCP's Ultimate Land Use Tour III, and UW-Extension Community and Economic Development's Wisconsin Basic Economic Development Course. She also commented that Gary Korb, of UW-Extension and SEWRPC, and the Center for Land Use Education were considering future workshops on planning topics, and asked that any MJAC member with topics of interest contact her. Jim Celano requested that a memo be sent to each community to encourage participation in upcoming planning workshops. It was agreed that a memo would be sent from County Planning & Development.

Mary Kacmarcik asked for an update on the local land use maps. Dave Schilling announced that the Town of Dover and the Village of Mt Pleasant have endorsed their maps. Six maps are still in progress, and will be posted on the Smart Growth website when they received endorsement. Mr. Schilling also stated that the Village of Waterford adopted the master plan on August 20, 2008.

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

Julie Anderson announced that the next meeting date would be Thursday, September 18, 2008. She also stated that because of budget meetings, there would not be an MJAC meeting in October.

### **7. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Jim Moyer and seconded by Connie Mellem, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.