

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

DATE: March 2, 2009
TIME: 8:00 a.m.
PLACE: Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Commissioner's Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI
(Teleconference Meeting)

Board Members

Karl Ostby, Chairman Kenosha County Representative
Len Brandrup City of Kenosha Representative
David Eberle Racine County Representative
Joseph "Jody" Karls City of Racine Representative
Sharon Robinson City of Milwaukee Representative
Julia Taylor Governor's Representative from City of Milwaukee
George A. Torres Milwaukee County Representative

Staff Members

Kenneth R. Yunker Executive Director, SEWRPC
Albert A. Beck Principal Planner, SEWRPC

Consultant Team (Transit Advocacy and Communications)

Elizabeth Kelly
H. Carl Mueller
Lori Richards

Guests

Brian Dranzik Fiscal and Policy Administrator, Milwaukee County
Department of Transportation and Public Works
Karen Schmiechen Planner, Wisconsin Department of
Transportation, Southeast Region

ROLL CALL

Chairman Ostby called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and asked the Board members on the telephone line to identify themselves. The presence of a quorum was confirmed. The individuals who had dialed-in to the conference call, or who were present in the Commission offices, also identified themselves to the Board members.

CONSIDERATION OF PHASE IV OF THE COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT WORK

The Board continued its discussion on the consultant's Phase IV work proposal that was initiated at the previous RTA meeting.

[Secretary's Note: The Phase VI work plan was provided in Attachment 1 to the minutes of the February 27, 2009, RTA meeting]

Mr. Eberle stated that he had discussed further the Phase IV work plan with the Racine County Executive McReynolds and that Mr. McReynolds had identified two main concerns. First, that there would not be a representative from Racine County on the Board of the new RTA being proposed for southeastern Wisconsin in the Governor's 2009-2011 budget. He indicated that this would leave several communities in eastern Racine County without any representation on the RTA Board. Second, that the Phase IV work plan had elements that Mr. McReynolds believed could be construed as lobbying. He stated that more work needed to be done on the proposal to further delineate the specific work to be done to clearly indicate it did not include any lobbying activities. He stated that the County Executive was willing to provide the consultant with time to revise the language in its proposal and moved for approval of the Phase IV work plan for one month.

Ms. Taylor proposed a friendly amendment to Mr. Eberle's motion to permit extending the consultant's contract through June 2009. She explained that this would allow the consultant to work through the period expected as needed for passage of the State's 2009-2011 budget. Mr. Brandrup proposed a second amendment to Mr. Eberle's motion calling for language to be added to the consultant contract clarifying what would be considered as lobbying and prohibiting any such activities.

Mr. Eberle indicated that the Racine County Executive would not approve of the proposed amendments as his concerns went beyond the lobbying issue, and that the loss of a Racine County representative on the new RTA remained a problem. Mr. Karls noted that the Board had also identified several concerns with the language in the Governor's proposed budget and the RTA needed the consultant to work with State legislators to correct those problems in the proposed budget bill. Ms. Taylor stated that the consultant was also needed now to provide factual information on the need for, and role of, the RTA as presented in the RTA report released last November. Ms. Robinson agreed that there was a need for the proposed consultant activities to educate Legislators and the public on the RTA recommendations.

Chairman Ostby called for a vote on the motion as amended by Ms. Taylor and Mr. Brandrup. The motion failed on a vote of 5 aye and 2 nay, with Mr. Eberle and Mr. Torres voting nay. In response to a question from Chairman Ostby, Mr. Torres stated his vote reflected the opposition of the Milwaukee County Executive to the proposed sales tax for the RTA included in the Governor's proposed budget.

After further discussion among Board members, Ms Taylor and Mr. Brandrup agreed to withdraw their amendments to Mr. Eberle's motion and the Board voted on Mr. Eberle's original motion for approval of the Phase IV work plan for one month. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

At the suggestion of Mr. Brandrup, the Board scheduled a teleconference meeting for 8:00 a.m. on Monday March 30, 2009, to consider the revisions to the Phase IV work plan and budget that are needed to respond to the comments of Racine County Executive McReynolds and to provide continued funding for the consultant's activities.

REPORTS ON OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO THE WORK OF THE RTA

Mr. Torres stated that Mr. Brian Dranzik, Fiscal and Policy Administrator in the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and Public Works, had been nominated by the Milwaukee County Executive to replace him as the Milwaukee County representative on the RTA and that the Milwaukee County Board would hopefully confirm his appointment before the RTA meeting on March 30, 2009. He stated that it had been a pleasure working with the members of the Board over the past three years. Chairman Ostby and the other Board members thanked Mr. Torres for his time and efforts on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Karls, seconded by Mr. Brandrup, and carried unanimously by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Recording Secretary

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