

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
Thursday, January 11, 2024; 10:00 a.m.
Sid Harvey's Family Diner, 704 E. Grand Ave.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

Commissioners Present: Louie Okey, George Rohmeyer, Joe Waichulis, Steve Rasmussen, John Frank, Diane Morehouse, Chuck Hull, Peter Kaz, Allen Krause, Denise L'Allier-Pray, Joel Seidlitz, Dane Zook, Dan Hansen, Terry Hauer, Stan Buchanan,

Commissioners Absent: Jeremy Hall, Ryan Sicard, Gary Taxdahl, Tom Quinn, Kyle Johnson, Mike Barcalow

Staff Present: Scott Allen, Erin Whyte, Tobi LeMahieu, Eric Anderson

1. **Call to Order: Chair** Okey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Guests, Dylan Brown and Melissa Meschke, Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship (Universities of Wisconsin)
3. **Review and Approve Minutes of November 9, 2023, Commission Meeting:** A motion to approve the November 9, 2023, minutes was made by Morehouse, seconded by Waichulis; motion carried.
4. **Review and Approve Disbursements:** A motion was made by Buchanan to approve the disbursements seconded by L'Allier-Pray; motion carried.
5. **Discussion/Approval of 2024 Work Program and Budget-** Allen discussed with the Commissioners the 2024 work program and budget, highlighting a few project and activity additions to each section from 2023 and noting which areas levy funds are utilized. A motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Rasmussen; motion carried.
6. **Technology Enterprise Fund (TEF) Manual Revision:** Tobi LeMahieu, Regional Business Fund, Inc. Manager, gave a presentation on the Technology Enterprise Fund revolving loan fund. She requested that an update to the manual be approved to expand use of the fund, and the RBF Board of Directors recommended such a change at their meeting of December 13, 2023. The primary change is to reduce the minimum loan size from \$100,000 to \$25,000. Hansen asked if other parameters of the manual or the loan program will be changed? LeMahieu responded no but agreed that the RBF will explore the need to make other changes if needed. A motion was made by Kaz to approve the amendment to the TEF Manual as recommended by the RBF Board of Directors and seconded by Hansen; motion carried.
7. **Main Street Bounceback Update:** Guest, Dylan Brown, Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship (Universities of Wisconsin) provided an update on the latest phase of the Main Street Bounceback program: no-cost business training & technical assistance available to recipients of the program facilitated by Small Business Development Network of Wisconsin (SBDC).
8. **Chippewa- Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Update:** Senior Planner/MPO Director Eric Anderson presented a report on MPO 2023 activities and 2024 plans.
9. **Directors Report:** Allen gave an update on project, budget, and staffing activities. He also referenced upcoming 2024 meeting dates and locations.
10. **Any Other Business or Updates:** Krause noted work that the Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition is doing in his area similar to that of our participation with Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin. Director Allen did not have any other updates.
11. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - St. Croix County - location TBD.

12. **Next Tentative Executive Committee Meeting Date:** If a meeting is required, it will tentatively be February 8, 2024, Banbury Place in Eau Claire or via Zoom.
13. **Adjournment:** 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Whyte