

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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Minutes of the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Council

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Held at: Casper Room, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 620 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI

Members Present (13): Gary Spilde - Village of Lake Hallie (Chair), Jim Dunning – Eau Claire County (Vice-chair), Dean Mueller – Chippewa County, Matt Biren – City of Altoona, Greg Hoffman – City of Chippewa Falls, Emily Berge – City of Eau Claire, Wes Vleck – Town of Brunswick, Mark Brennan – Town of Lafayette, Dan Hanson – Town of Pleasant Valley, Jessica Janssen – Town of Seymour, Jennifer Meyer – Town of Union, Robert Solberg – Town of Washington, Steve Harmon – Town of Wheaton

Members without representation present (4): Town of Anson, Town of Eagle Point, Town of Hallie, Town of Tilden

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Edwin Rothrock - Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO; Michael Mills, Hallie Bushman, Landon Profaizer, Ross Pietrzak, Chris Straight (via Zoom) - WCWRPC

Minutes

1. Chairman Spilde called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
- 1.a A roll call was taken of the Members attending.
2. Mr. Spilde convened the meeting as the Public Hearing for application from the City of Eau Claire to amend the Chippewa-Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service titled *Type I Sewer Service Area Plan Amendment-Orchard Hills*. The Policy Council Meeting was reconvened at the conclusion of the Public Hearing.
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. The elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson were held. Mr. Spilde was nominated for the Chair position and was unanimously elected. Mr. Dunning was nominated for the Vice-Chair position and was elected on a twelve Yes to one No vote.
5. The minutes of the February 1st, 2023, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Council meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded, and passed unanimously.
6. The minutes of the April 19th, 2023, meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) were presented and accepted as information.
7. Mr. Spilde initiated discussion on consideration and action on an advisory resolution titled "*Resolution 23-05 Boundary Amendment of the Chippewa Fall-Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Area Plan for 2025*" as requested by the City of Eau Claire in an August 4, 2022, application titled *Type I Sewer Service Area Plan Amendment-Orchard Hills* and modified January 20th, 2023.

Mr. Brennan asked Mr. Paul Holzinger, of CDPG Developers, about planned lot size in the proposed development on the land in the Sewer Service Area (SSA) "receiving" area. Mr. Holzinger explained that at this time, a mix of multi-family buildings, duplexes, and single-family units are in the preliminary plans.

Ms. Meyer stated that the area in the amended donor area that connects to the existing SSA boundary is very narrow and does not meet the intention of the "no voids" rule in the SSA Plan even if it meets the letter of the rule. She also said that she considers the amended donor area to still create a void in the SSA.

Some Council members reiterated concerns expressed during the public hearing, most notably:

- It was suggested that the amendment request is being used to foster annexation and this is in conflict with a SSA Plan policy.
- The Town of Washington still has time to appeal the annexation, so it was suggested that a decision on the amendment should not occur at this time.
- Concern was expressed that the boundary amendment should not be approved in a “piecemeal fashion” at this time since a full SSA Plan update is needed.
- It was suggested that the boundary amendment and planned length of the sanitary sewer extension would not provide for an efficient or compact pattern of development, and this is in conflict with a SSA Plan policy.

Regarding the last bullet above, WCWRPC staff was asked by a Council member why their staff report did not consider such concerns. WCWRPC Senior Planner Chris Straight explained that this is an advisory or “should” policy within the SSA Plan intended to serve as a guide to communities. When the SSA Plan was being updated in 2005-2006, the MPO Policy Council desired that the Plan distinguish between the mandatory “shall” policies and the advisory “should” policies. At that time, the Council made it clear that they did not want or intend for WCWRPC or any other party to require top-down adherence with the “should” policies; such decisions were to each individual community.

Mr. Robert Solberg motioned for a vote recommending denying the application titled *Type I Sewer Service Area Plan Amendment-Orchard Hills*. Mr. Vleck second the motion. A roll call vote was made. The results were eight (8) votes in favor of recommending denial of the application and three (3) votes against denying the application. Chippewa and Eau Claire counties were not able to vote on this agenda item, per the MPO by-laws.

The MPO Policy Council adopted a resolution recommending the WDNR denies the amendment application to the SSA.

8. Mr. Anderson presented Amendment #10 (Projects) to the Transportation Improvement Program for the Eau Claire Urbanized Area, 2022-2026 for adoption. A motion to adopt Amendment #10 was made by Ms. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Dunning, and passed unanimously.
9. Mr. Anderson presented Amendment #11 (Performance Measures - PM1 Safety) to the Transportation Improvement Program for the Eau Claire Urbanized Area, 2022-2026 for adoption. He explained that the MPO has adopted the State’s Performance Measures, as has been usual. A motion to adopt Amendment #11 was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Brennan, and passed unanimously.
10. Mr. Anderson presented Amendment #12 (Performance Measures – TAM and PTASP) to the Transportation Improvement Program for the Eau Claire Urbanized Area, 2022-2026 for adoption. He explained that the MPO has adopted the State’s Performance Measures, as has been usual. A motion to adopt Amendment #12 was made by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Harmon, and passed unanimously.
11. Mr. Anderson presented the scores and rankings for projects submitted to the MPO for funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). He explained that of the five projects submitted, only four met the criteria of being able to be funded by the BIL funding awarded to the MPO (\$281,000) between 50% and 80%. The remaining four projects, all for streetlight efficiency upgrades, if funded at the maximum 80%, would use up all but \$1,800 of the funding awarded. A motion to approve the funding for the recommended projects was made by Mr. Biren, seconded by Ms. Berge, and passed unanimously.
12. Mr. Anderson reviewed some ongoing and upcoming projects on the MPO’s work plans. He also invited members to approach MPO staff with any projects and support needs.
13. Other Business - none
14. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 3rd, 2023.
10. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Chairman Spilde did so at 7:02 p.m.