



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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Minutes of LAPC Meeting, November 14, 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 4:30 pm in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Joe Chilsen, City of Onalaska; Mike Weibel, alternate for Linda Seidel, Town of Medary; Tim Candahl, Town of Shelby; Nancy Proctor, Village of Holmen; Tara Johnson, La Crosse County; Dennis Manthei, Village of West Salem; Rolly Bogert, Town of Onalaska; Terry Schaller, Town of Campbell; Mike Poellinger, City of La Crescent; Dave Marshall, alternate, City of La Crosse. **Members Excused:** Tim Kabat, City of La Crosse. **Others Present:** Mike Giese, alternate, La Crosse County; Jerry Monti, alternate, Town of Onalaska; Francis Schelfhout; Jason Gilman; Steve O'Malley; Matt Spiel; Jourdan Vian; Tom Faella; Jackie Eastwood.

Call to Order: Joe Chilsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

1) Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2018 LAPC Meeting:

Mike Poellinger motioned to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting; Nancy Proctor seconded. All were in favor.

2) Public comment relative to agenda items, with 5 minute time limit per comment:

None.

3) Resolution 12-2018 Approving the LAPC 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program:

Mike Poellinger motioned to approve Resolution 12-2018; Dennis Manthei seconded. All were in favor.

4) Review the History of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for La Crosse/La crescent:

5) Highlight of MPO Staffing and Structures 2017 by USDOT and FHWA:

6) Overview of Wisconsin RPC and MPO Structures:

7) Discussion of future direction of the MPO and issues that LAPC could address:

8) Next steps regarding filling vacancy of MPO Executive Director

Agenda items 4-8 were addressed by a presentation given by Steve O'Malley. Discussion revolved around expanding the duties of the MPO. Mike Giese voiced his observation that so much planning doesn't make it to implementation. Tim Candahl stated that the LAPC needs to make a decision on whether it wants to take on discussions about other regionalization efforts, including fire, sewer, roads, land use, libraries, bike trails, and bluff lands. Joe Chilson added that we need to look at these issues from an economic standpoint. Ms. Eastwood asked if the Policy Board was looking to have the Policy Board act as a forum for discussion or have the MPO take on non-transportation activities, which could jeopardize federal funding and reduce the effectiveness of the MPO. The time devoted to outside activities would have to be documented and funded through local sources. Many of those topics are just outside the MPO's staff skill set.

Mike Poellinger brought up land use studies to which Ms. Eastwood commented that the MPO does a land use inventory whenever new aerial photography is flown and that work helps inform other activities, but as far as having any say over land use decisions, the MPO is only advisory. There is no statutory requirement that municipalities give land use review to the MPO. The municipalities would have to give that power to the MPO.

Discussion continued over what the Policy Board members would like to see the MPO take on, with Tara Johnson suggesting that a facilitator be brought in to help the Policy Board develop a plan for the role and staffing of the MPO. Ms. Eastwood commented that she would like to see the MPO stay with the County because the support systems are in place, she has the tools she needs to do her work, and it's a more regional body than a municipality.

Mike Poellinger motioned to appoint Jackie Eastwood as the interim director and to have an outside facilitator assist the Policy Board in developing the future structure and direction of the MPO; Dennis Manthei seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion turned to when to hold the facilitation. Tara Johnson suggested that she didn't want to see the Policy Board lose its momentum and so suggested holding the facilitation in December instead of at the regularly-scheduled meeting in January.

Mike Poellinger motioned to call for a December meeting and to coordinate with Karl Green to do the facilitation; Nancy Proctor seconded. All were in favor.

9) Other business; Future Agenda Items; Next meeting to be announced:

The meeting concluded with Tom Faella saying his good-byes.

Tim Candahl motioned to adjourn at 5:28 pm; Mike Weibel seconded. All were in favor.