



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

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

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Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, January 20, 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the La Crosse Center Ballroom, 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Bob Haines, John Boland, Paul Wydeven, Mike Weibel, Jeff Brudos, David Jolicoeur, Bob Fisher, Matt Gallagher, Jarrod Holter, Marc Schultz, Dale Hexom, Dick Granchalek, Dennis Osgood, Randy Turtenwald, Charlie Handy, Bob Crooks, Jason Gilman. **Members Excused:** Ryan Gaug **Others Present:** Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

Tom Faella called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1) **Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2009 TAC Meeting:**

Matt Gallagher motioned to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting. Bob Haines seconded. All were in favor.

2) **Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plan Update:**

Tom Faella gave some background on the La Crosse Area Sewer Committee (LASC) and its membership. The Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plan, which was completed by the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC), defines the area that can be served by the City of La Crosse sewer system. The last amendment occurred in 2008 when the City of La Crescent petitioned to be served by the La Crosse system.

The LASC met a couple of times in 2009 to talk about possible minor updates before the next major update by the MRRPC.

Jeff Brudos stated that annexation issues related to sewer service have made it difficult for the Town of Shelby to do any planning. He would like to see the DNR play a greater role in negotiating contentious issues. He would also like to see the Plan updated as conditions change, thereby making a more dynamic process.

Randy Turtenwald stated that the policy for the City of La Crosse has been to annex with service and to have an intermunicipal agreement. The decision to provide service and to require annexation rests with the common council. Dale Hexom added that sewer service depends on geography, too. The policy in place operates with the assumption that the served land will be adjacent to La Crosse boundaries.

Tom Faella stated that the Town of Shelby, as previously discussed, and the City of La Crescent had submitted ideas for update of the Plan. La Crescent is considering extending service to areas currently outside the City, including to Dresbach Township and Dakota City.

Randy Turtenwald and Dale Hexom spoke for the City of La Crosse saying the current Plan is a functioning document and that it would be best to have the MRRPC do an update in 2012 when the Census data are available.

Jeff Brudos said the LASC would decide when to update the Plan. He suggested the Plan be updated during planning activities such as comprehensive plan updates and boundary agreements, as well as when decennial census data are available.

Jason Gilman noted Onalaska is considering requesting some areas be added to the SSA.

Jeff Brudos motioned to recommend to the LASC that the board proceed with a minor update to the SSA Plan to include technical updates as needed and the changes discussed for Shelby, La Crescent, and Onalaska. Matt Gallagher and Randy Turtenwald voted against; Bob Haines, John Boland, and Paul Wydeven abstained. The rest were in favor.

3) Traffic Counters:

Tom Faella stated he had done some research on traffic counters and found two basic kinds: radar and tube. The radar counters had such advantages as they don't have to be installed in the road, they can be used year-round, they classify vehicle types well, and they're as accurate as tube counters. The disadvantage is they can't count 4-lane roads. Jamar has a package deal for one radar counter, one four-lane tube counter, and the software for \$6,000.

Dennis Osgood motioned to recommend to the Policy Board the purchase of the Jamar counter package for \$6,000. Bob Haines seconded. All were in favor.

4) Local Studies Program for 2010:

Tom Faella stated that the aerial photography was going to cost less than anticipated. He suggested that \$1,000 of the savings be transferred to the local studies program to pay the balance for the counters. Around \$6,000 would still be available for local studies—only half of which can be used for engineering and design.

5) Potential Stimulus, STP-Urban and Enhancement Funding in 2010:

Paul Wydeven stated that the STP-Urban, Rural and Local Bridge programs will be launched in 2010, hopefully in February. The Enhancement and Safe Routes to School programs will start in July. Additional ARRA funding is still up in the air.

6) Other Business, Adjourn, Next meeting to be announced:

John Boland asked that a mechanism for preventing simultaneous projects on major roadways be created. Tom Faella stated that the best time to do that would be during the TIP development process.

Bob Crooks motioned to adjourn at 4:16 p.m. Dick Granchalek seconded. All were in favor.