

MINUTES
Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Advisory Committee
August 3, 2006

Members Present: Gary Wescott, City of Stevens Point; John Holdridge, Town of Hull; Jerry Walters, Village of Whiting; Elmer Fournier, Village of Park Ridge; and Carl Karcheski, Town of Linwood

Members Excused: Tim Karcheski, Town of Plover and Dan Schlutter, Village of Plover

Others Present: Dan Mahoney and Richard Holden, Village of Plover; Jeanne Dodge, Mike Bronk and Ron Borski, Town of Stockton, Phil Idsvoog, County Board Chair

Staff Present: Jeff Schuler, Sarah Wallace, and Paula Cummings, Portage County Planning and Zoning Department.

Chairman Fournier called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Courthouse Annex, and asked those present to introduce themselves.

1. Members of the Public Who Wish to Address the Committee on Specific Agenda Items Must Register Their Request at This Time, With Such Comments Subject to the Reasonable Control of the Committee Chair as Set Forth in Robert's Rules of Order

No one came forward.

2. Action on Minutes of February 23, 2006

Wescott moved to approve the February 23, 2006 minutes as submitted and Walters seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

3. Discussion on the Process and Materials Needed for Updating and Revising the 1983 Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Plan

Schuler provided the following handouts in the Committee's agenda packets: "How Are Sewer Service Area Plans and Updates Developed?" from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); various sections of the Urban Area Comprehensive Plan; current Bylaws of the Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Advisory Committee; and the Extraterritorial Future Land Use and Future Sewer Service Boundary map from the Portage County Urban Area Comprehensive Plan. These were provided to assist the Committee in determining needs and areas where adjustments are needed. Schuler stated the Committee must be certain to address the following during Plan update: DNR guidance/approach ("How To"); Comprehensive Plan information on the urban area; and updating the original bylaws, which is required.

Fournier stated this is like providing our wish list and specific concerns. Holdridge questioned the Committee structure of including a primary member and 1-2 alternates. Wescott questioned whether there would be benefit in reviewing historical records from 1981/1982. The 208 Plan was prepared for the first time at that time and he is interested in the initial building blocks. Wescott noted the sewer service boundary map needs updating. He also wants to see a triggering mechanism put in place to update the Plan every 3-5 years rather than waiting so long. Mahoney stated the language must be looked at and strengthened in regard to updating the Plan.

Holdridge questioned why the Sewer Service Plan was created in the first place. Schuler responded the Plan was a State requirement, Portage County fit the requirement specifications such as population, etc., and there was money available to put the Plan in place. Walters referred to the DNR handout provided by Schuler in which this question is answered. Mahoney felt the availability of funding helped to push the original Plan process through.

Holdridge questioned whether additional County staff or consultants will be necessary for this update process. Schuler replied that no additional Planning and Zoning staff will be necessary. Mahoney noted he had previously heard no funding was available for Plan updates and suggested official word be sought. Are in-kind expenses true expenses? Schuler noted that Tom Gilbert from the DNR is on vacation; therefore, unavailable to answer the funding question at this time.

Karcheski stated he too would like to know why this Plan and Committee were formed. Holdridge stated he would like to know why these are the municipalities involved in the process. Schuler answered the municipalities involved were those areas thought to be growing with a future need for sewer service. Walters clarified the Committee consists of representatives of municipalities with sewage treatment plants and those areas thought to be growing at the time the Plan was created.

Holdridge stated the old Plan talks about water basins. The Town of Hull is concerned about quality and quantity of water. Should we look at the water that is available and begin an aquifer discussion? Schuler clarified that current NR121 DNR guidelines deal with water quality, not quantity. Water quantity is beyond the task of this Committee. Mahoney stated quantity is a completely different area. This Committee deals with sewer service; not well capacity, only sewer issues. There is no direction from the DNR that states we deal with water quantity. Quality is the focus. Holdridge asked again whether this Committee deals with where you get your water from and Mahoney replied no, the Committee deals with disposal only. Wescott stated water quantity is outside the boundaries of the 208 Group. He further noted that other leaders have discussed this issue, but it is outside this group's boundaries. Schuler stated the water quantity is a proper discussion at some level, but it is not our venue. Holdridge asked whether NR121 includes any federal regulation. Schuler stated NR121 stems from the Clean Water Act of 1972.

Holden stated water quantity discussions can come before the Urban Area Comprehensive Planning Group. Fournier added that this discussion can also come before the Portage County Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee. Mahoney noted that the Village of Plover, along with the DNR, Portage County Planning and Zoning, and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) staff has been looking at Plover's aquifer because of the Little Plover River. Wescott felt the water quantity issue could come before the urban group later this year. Holdridge felt there was not much data collection/sampling taking place. Fournier said that the UWSP will tell you Portage County groundwater is very well studied.

Mahoney offered the following items as necessary to obtain or decide in regard to the Plan update process, including minutes of the initial formation of the Committee and utilizing chapters of the Urban Area Plan:

1. Decide whether the Town of Linwood should continue to be a member; refer to their current land use plan for future development areas.
2. Decide whether the Town of Stockton should become a member; refer to their current land use plan for future development areas.
3. Identify the 20 year planning boundaries and project growth ratios in order to identify the sewer service area.
4. Decide whether the weighted voting process should continue to be used.
5. Look at the Town of Plover being serviced without annexation by the Village of Plover.
6. Develop a mechanism to make certain the Plan is updated every 5 years.
7. Decide whether the structure of the Committee should remain the same.
8. Clarify request submittal requirements. Challenges to capacity issues should come from the DNR, not the Committee. Municipalities must rely on an engineer to resolve capacity issues. Keep all request submittal requirements consistent between all municipalities involved. Require the same from everyone to avoid disagreements.
9. Formally acknowledge the agreement between the City of Stevens Point and the Village of Plover that County Road HH is the dividing line for future sewer service.
10. Decide who will be lead DNR agent for Portage County. Is that person now Jeff Schuler?
11. Suggest the Committee meet monthly until the Plan is updated.
 - Review Plan a section at a time and update as necessary.
 - Have the municipality and County staffs prepare sewer service draft areas and submit to the full Committee for review and discussion.
 - Allow amendments to existing Plan while Plan is being updated; no moratorium.

Holdridge stated this Committee has had "blood and guts" struggles and he questioned the powers and authority of the Committee. He felt the voting structure is crucial. He would like to go along with Mahoney's list of needs and decisions.

Karcheski felt the Town of Stockton should be included in the process. Borski stated before this Committee thinks of invading Stockton, it should have representation on the Committee. He further stated that changing the sewer service boundary agreements prior to Stockton being on the Committee is not good politics. He suggested Stockton become a member prior to Plan updates. Fournier noted the bylaws must be rewritten before the update begins. Cummings reminded members that municipal board action is necessary to appoint Committee alternates. Municipal heads are automatically members. Fournier noted bylaw amendments must take place first because that is where membership is discussed. Schuler stated the Committee must discuss how you want the bylaws to be written. Idsvog suggested legal counsel be sought on these updates. Mahoney suggested the Town of Stockton identify their representatives before they are actually added to the Committee to save time.

Walters suggested action on the moratorium issue during Plan update should be taken at the next meeting. That decision must be made out in front of it all. The Committee must talk to make that decision.

Holdridge brought up the sewer service request regarding the aquaplex project in the Village of Plover that had been approved by the Committee. He questioned whether that project will even happen; stating the Advisory Committee approved the expansion into the area for that project, but who knows what will go there. Mahoney replied the Center Lakes Project is in place and moving forward. Mahoney further noted that regular Plan updates may have eliminated the need for requests coming before this Committee because expansion areas would have been identified previously. Not updating the Plan has caused meetings because the boundary did not expand as it should have. Holdridge stated he felt the aquaplex and golf course are not at the same scope as voted on by this Committee and he asked whether the Committee can do anything about that. Mahoney replied that updates will look out ahead; address the future. The Committee is not dealing with land use plans; they have been adopted and approved. We are here to see whether expansion of sewer and water are consistent with those land use plans. "We won't deal with specifics later?" asked Holdridge and Mahoney replied correct.

Schuler reiterated that this Committee is charged with dealing with groundwater quality. Walters added we deal with whether sewer facilities can handle the requested extension. Schuler also added that the Committee deals with whether the area requested is environmentally sensitive; the Committee is not land use and project specific.

Fournier asked what other information is necessary. Holdridge replied he is looking for specifics on the authority of this Committee.

Schuler clarified at the next meeting, the Committee wants to talk about bylaws, talk about the request moratorium issue, and review initial minutes.

After brief discussion, members decided to meet monthly on the first Wednesday from 5:00-6:30 pm. The meeting time would be limited to 1 and ½ hour. The next meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2006 from 5:00-6:30 pm. The first Wednesday at this time slot is locked in for the remainder of the year.

Schuler reminded members to have their official board take action appointing alternate members to this Committee in the event they, the primary member, cannot attend.

4. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, Karcheski moved to adjourn and Wescott seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer Fournier, Chair

Paula Cummings, Rec. Secretary

Date

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