

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING**  
**HOUSING, UTILITIES, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**WORK GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Kuehn at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington County Public Agency Center in Rooms 1113A/B. Those present included:

**Work Group Members Present:**

Chris Kuehn, Chairperson .....	Town of Wayne
Joe Gonnering, Vice Chairperson.....	Washington County Board Supervisor
Kris Turner .....	Town of Barton
Brad Bautz .....	Town of Erin
Gary Schreiber.....	Town of Farmington
Dave Kainz .....	Town of Hartford
Allen Hron.....	Town of Kewaskum
Theodore Merten .....	Town of Polk
Jerry Gilles .....	Village of Kewaskum
Claire Fowler .....	Town of Erin Citizen
Michael Heili .....	Village of Newburg
Ken Heins .....	Kettle Moraine Applied Manufacturing Cluster Council
Jack Caldwell .....	Washington County Economic Development Corp.
Jim Berend (Alternate) .....	West Bend School District

**Excused:**

Richard Bertram .....	Washington County Board Supervisor
Gary Karnitz .....	Town of Addison
Kori Schneider.....	Fair Housing Council
Mike Komro .....	Town of Trenton
Bruce Wilk .....	Workforce Development Board
Andy Gumm .....	Utility Representative & EDAC Member

**Absent:**

James Nowakowski .....	Village of Germantown Citizen
Therese Baron.....	City of West Bend Citizen
James Arens Jr.....	Town of Germantown
Carol Biersach .....	Slinger Housing Authority Director
David Shapley .....	School District Representative

**Staff:**

Joshua Glass .....	Planner
Washington County Planning and Parks Department	
Todd Roehl .....	Planner
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	
Kevin Struck.....	Growth Management Educator
UW - Extension	
Kelly Hahm .....	Administrative Secretary
Washington County Planning and Parks Department	

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Call Meeting to Order/Review Agenda

Kuehn called meeting to order.

**Motion by Heili, seconded by Hron to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Approval of February 14, 2007

**Motion by Hron, seconded by Fowler to approve the minutes from February 14, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.**

**THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Review of Chapter 4 – Land Use and Transportation Chapter

Roehl reviewed Chapter 4 – Land Use and Transportation. (See Attached). There were no questions or comments regarding the material.

**FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Update on the Milwaukee 7 Strategic Framework

Caldwell briefly explained what the Milwaukee 7 is. Caldwell briefly reviewed the “The Milwaukee 7 Strategic Framework” handout. (See Attached). Bennett expressed concern about the next generation of manufacturing and stated that when manufacturing is discussed, the focus should be on the need to make a transition in manufacturing and planning and actually come out with a unique product. Discussion ensued regarding bio-medical manufacturing. Heins stated for every manufacturing job, there are four other jobs that support it.

**FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Brainstorm Desirable Industries and Strengths and Weaknesses for Attracting those Industries

**Which categories or particular types of businesses and industries are desired by Washington County in the future?**

- Biomanufacturing and manufacturing of medical equipment
- Information systems, including software development and data processing
- Entrepreneurial companies and independent businesses led by visionaries that will attract venture capital to the County
- Advanced technology manufacturing and niche manufacturing, such as the plastics and medical industries; and manufacturing that requires high precision and low product volume
- Financial and insurance services, including financial planning, banking, online support facilities, and processing facilities
- Business incubators for small businesses that may grow into larger businesses and expand
- Small businesses and home-based businesses
- Niche agriculture, including organic farming; food production for local restaurants, micro-breweries, and other niches; and crop production for the bio-fuel industry
- Continuation of dairy farming and other existing types of agriculture
- Professional/engineering/technical offices
- Logistics/freight/trucking
- Nonmetallic mining
- Aerospace manufacturing
- Food processing

**What are Washington County's strengths with respect to attracting and retaining businesses and industries?**

- Strong regional cooperation and promotion through the Milwaukee 7 economic development initiative
- Strong educational system including high schools, UWWC, and MPTC; proximity to Milwaukee area universities and colleges
- High quality of life, including good healthcare; recreational and open space amenities; rural character; high quality public services; low crime rate; cultural opportunities; and location in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area
- Highway system, USH 41/USH 45, and good access to Milwaukee & Chicago
- Access to transportation and/or shipping through rail, local airports, Mitchell International Airport, and the Port of Milwaukee
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Revolving Loan Fund Financing incentives
- Highly developed utility and energy infrastructure in urban areas
- Available land within existing business/industrial parks
- Educated and skilled workforce
- County and local governments that are receptive to business needs (considered a strength and a weakness)
- Fair Park (meeting, convention, and exhibition facilities that operate year-round to showcase area businesses)
- Chambers of Commerce, Downtown Associations, Convention & Visitors Bureau, industry "clusters"
- Police, fire, and emergency resources

**What are Washington County's weaknesses with respect to attracting and retaining businesses and industries?**

- Lack of jobs with pay levels high enough to afford housing in the County
- Lack of affordable workforce housing
- Too many educated young people leaving the County
- Aging of the County's workforce population
- Prejudice towards technical education and employment in "trade jobs"
- Lack of workers with skills suited to trade jobs and manufacturing jobs
- High land costs
- Disconnect between the education system and the business sector – students are not necessarily learning the skills employers need
- Lack of public transportation options in many parts of the County
- County residents can be reluctant to change and fearful of new business ideas
- "NIMBY" (Not In My Back Yard) attitude in some cases
- County and local governments that are receptive to business needs
- Availability of business services
- Lack of power in existing buildings
- Lack of technical and trade programs in local high schools

**SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Public Comment**

Bennett commented that Smart Growth is a good thing because communication is encouraged as our environment changes. Glass introduced Janice Sinur, the Planning Division's summer intern.

**EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Discussion Regarding Upcoming Meetings**

Glass stated the next meeting is August 8, 2007. Glass also invited the work group members to attend the Land Use and Transportation Work Group meeting which will be held at the West Bend Airport on August 27, 2007.

**NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Adjournment**

**Motion by Hron, seconded by Gonnering to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debora Sielski  
Assistant Administrator for Planning

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Kuehn, Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_