BIG EAU PLEINE TASK FORCE
Minutes
November 17, 2011

Members: John Small, Jim Burgener, Andy Johnson (Conservation, Planning and Zoning–CPZ); Ken Dorshorst (Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization–BEPCO); Scott Watson (DNR); Dave Coon (WVIC); Amy Neigum (NRCS); Matt Zoschke (Clark County Conservationist); Steve Oberle (Taylor County Conservationist)

1. Call to Order.
The presence of a quorum, the agenda being properly signed and posted, chair Small called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. in the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department Large Conference Room, Wausau, Wisconsin.

2. Introductions and Statements from Audience.
Introductions were made and all were welcomed.

3. Approve Minutes of the October 20, 2011 Meeting.
Coon requested the following corrections:
- Replacement blowers
  - Estimated up to $11,500 for a new blower; current blowers can be rebuilt on site at a cost of $2,500/each (total $5,000)
- Appendices to include:
  - Potential funding sources for electrical capital costs – DNR, WVIC, Marathon County, BEPCO, any other interested party (potentially towns)
Motion / second by Coon / Watson to approve the October 20, 2011 minutes as corrected. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

Small reported that the County had added $500 to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (PR&F) Department’s budget to help with electrical operating costs. Coon, on behalf of WVIC’s board, expressed WVIC’s appreciation for the County’s initiative and was impressed that this had been included in the County’s budget. Burgener reported that the County’s Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) would like this included in the PR&F’s annual budget.

Coon reported that Hujik had completed his review of the MOA for capital costs and had submitted it to WVIC. It was now under review by WVIC’s legal staff and some edits/revisions have been made, primarily adding legal language. One recommendation from WVIC’s attorney is to have Marathon County become a signatory of the MOA just stating that the County would be a potential contributor to any capital expenses. Discussion followed that if the need arose for a major equipment purchase, the County could contribute; the group would discuss the distribution of costs among all contributors (potentially in unequal amounts).

A brief discussion followed concerning the County’s budget process and development of a second MOA for electrical expenses:
- As a line item in future County budgets, this allocation may be struck,
- The County’s budget process does not allow for committing funds for future unapproved budgets nor carrying over of unexpended funds,
- The ERC had not discussed how funds were to be disbursed.

Corporation Counsel Corbett is to be consulted regarding this issue. Coon will forward the MOA to Johnson when WVIC’s review of the MOA is complete. Johnson to distribute the agreement to the members for comment, comments to be sent to Coon.
5. **Review of the Strategic Plan**

Johnson read Vanden Brook’s comments and endorsement of the Plan. DATCP will provide, to the extent possible, cost share, technical assistance, and assistance with training producers and consultants. Vanden Brook stated his intent to attend the December meeting. During the review of the draft the following was discussed:

- The reference section had been removed for readability purposes for the ERC; members would be provided with the reference section but not the general audience;
- Obviously redundant sections had been removed.

As a result of the detailed review the following changes were made:

- Page 2, 4th paragraph – Watson to provide revised numbers for the identified municipalities and industries within the Upper Wisconsin River basin with WPDES permits;
- Page 3, 1st paragraph, last sentence – the $2 million of economic activity is for anglers only not all “recreational opportunities;” Duncanson to be contacted to obtain information he may have regarding the economic impact of camping; “recreational” to be struck from this sentence;
- Page 3, 4th paragraph – “extreme” to be struck from the first sentence and “limited research” is to be replace with “40 years of operational data” in the second sentence;
- Page 4 – move the sentence “WVIC wants to maximize operational flexibility, but recognizes the value of winter storage goals.”
- Page 4, 1st paragraph – changed to read: “Through modeling conducted at BEPCO’s request, the WVIC determined that it is possible feasible to change the summer and fall operating procedures and realize a significant increase in water levels over winter during drought conditions. This can be done while still protecting minimum Wisconsin River flows and without impacting flows or reservoir operations upstream north of the Big Eau Pleine. However, WVIC believes that a change in reservoir …. “
- Page 4, 1st paragraph – Need to verify if the 1.7 million KWh per year figure is correct;
- Page 4, 1st paragraph, last sentence change “an enhanced Drought Contingency Plan” to “its enhanced Drought Contingency Plan”
- Page 5, Conclusion, 1st paragraph – change the 217,000 acres to include acreages from Taylor and Clark counties;
- Page 6, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence – changed to read “…need to help landowners, cities, villages and towns better manage and protect…”
- Page 6, 1st Recommendation – Reference the completed MOA;
- Page 7, 2.a.i. – changed to read “Adopt as an ordinance implementation of State Agricultural Standards…”
- Page 8, 2.d.iii. – Coon to provide revised statement;
- Page 8, 2.d.iv. – changed to read “Update Reservoir Modeling and Drought Management Plan”
- Page 8, 2.e.i. – changed to read “Provide BMP technical assistance, conservation planning, and engineering support to landowners”
- Page 8, 2.f. – add “iii. Pursue grant opportunities”
- Page 8, 2.h.i. – change “FPP” to “conservation compliance”
- Page 8, 2.i. – add “ii. Implement Heart of America’s Dairyland Agriculture Enterprise Area (AEA) compliance requirements”
- Page 9, 2nd bullet – to read “…regulatory requirements to landowners, towns, villages and cities.”
• Inclusion of a map of the watershed as an appendix to demonstrate the impact of the topography, soil types and land use.
• Compile a list of acronyms to assist readers.

Discussed changes will be made and the final report will be circulated. The final report will be presented to the ERC at its December meeting. All are encouraged to attend to lend their support to this Plan.

6. **Next Meeting Date: December 15, 2011**
As the final Strategic Plan is to be presented to the ERC at its December 13 meeting, *consensus* reached that no further meetings of the Task Force were necessary. Small thanked all present for their participation. Coon and Burgener complimented the group on the work that had been done.

7. **Adjourn.**
There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

John H. Small, Chair
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