1. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairperson BURROWS at 6:30 p.m.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2016 MEETING
Motion/second by RUFF/BEATTY to approve the meeting minutes from the MAY 26, 2016 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

4. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS
Rib Mountain was awarded a grant for the Trillium to Foxglove trail project which will provide an important connection from the Wisconsin River Bridge to the Rib Mountain trail network. RHODEN estimates that due to other projects, design will take place in 2018 and construction in 2019. Some right of way and wet areas need to be addressed but MEURETT has scheduled a meeting in December to begin discussion. MEURETT also noted that communities that prepare engineering reports for submission rated higher since those projects can identify possible barriers. This is a disadvantage for smaller communities. Next round of applications are due in 2017 and awarded in mid to late 2018.

NCWRPC was also awarded funding for a regional Safe Routes To School plan. RPC staff was not available to attend the meeting but should attend the next one to talk about their approach.

5. SUMMER ROAD PROJECTS UPDATE
Stewart Ave: Some issues had delayed the October finish date; completion date now November. Some sections are currently striped with bike lanes and buffered bike lanes.

County N: Resurfacing done earlier this summer with wider paved shoulders. Discussion on revisiting the MPO bike routes to incorporate new infrastructure. This could also be done with local routes.

Grand Ave, Schofield: Reconstruction is finished with ‘urban shoulder.’ Travel lane speeds are posted low enough to allow mixing of bikes and cars. Shoulder provides parking and refuge for bikes.

Rivers Edge Trail, Wausau: The trail’s northern extension has been delayed until spring which works better for the construction timeline and keeps trail users out of possibly dangerous areas.

County Road X: Resurfacing of road north of Cty Road Z was complete. Striping was done incorrectly and shoulder was not as wide as designed. This will be remedied with the next restriping but that could be several years. MPO staff will work with the County Highway Dept. to help avoid this in the future.

6. COUNTER UPDATE
LYNCH provided reports on the daily and monthly averages for the five infrared counters placed throughout the metro area. Data shows a summer trend of traffic peaking in July at all sites except the Wisconsin River Bridge. HELKE suggested numbers might be down due to the closing of the Cedar Creek Trail. RUFF and BEATTY question the numbers on the Wisconsin River Bridge for accuracy. LYNCH agreed to check it as soon as possible with a manual count. LYNCH would like to do a comparison between County R and McCleary bridge next year.

7. SUCCESSION PLANNING
LYNCH reported there is still a need for a chair. An email list cleanup had already begun and a letter to city administrators would go out next week with the goal of having an appointed representative from each MPO community. RUFF suggested a partner survey of the email list to gauge expectations, best meeting times, and frequency from members. BURROWS requested a future discussion on the purpose of the committee, how they support the MPO, to determine an effective path forward.
8. COMMUNITY UPDATES AND FUTURE EVENTS

PLATH: Reported on the Wausau Bike/Ped Committee and work on crosswalk improvements. Will examine bike facilities on Grand Ave south of Kent Street and hope to encourage Schofield to add sharrows. CISM approved the South 1st Ave project with road diet and buffered bike lane.

WOOD: Kronenwetter is continuing to work to complete the Old Hwy 51 trail. Final design is complete; construction is expected to start in early 2017 with completion by July 2017.

BEATTY: Would like to thank WisDOT, MPO, and everyone else that helped with the TAP process; is very excited for the Trillium/Foxglove path project. Rib Mountain will begin installing local bike route and ‘Share The Road’ signs. Rib Mountain has encouraged businesses to install bike racks, one business has done so.

RHODEN: Development potential on Goose Lane could impact bike route and path; details unavailable at this time but will look to maintain that route. Graffiti in Hwy 51/29 tunnel has been a problem. Rib Mountain would like to explore having art painted in tunnel so it is not a blank canvas. Tunnel is under jurisdiction of Marathon County and the Town is looking for help from CPZ and Highway departments to locate programs and resources.

MEURETT: Very few state projects in this area in 2017. Next year Mosinee will begin construction of a path along the river and has been looking at extending the trail north towards Kronenwetter.

HELKE: County Road J under the Hwy 29 overpass has very poor pavement condition, narrow, and is unsafe for bikes; would like County to examine filling the cracks if it won’t be resurfaced soon. Suggestions made: installing mirrors at blind corners to prevent crashes and a yellow line down the middle of path as a temporary measure.

RUFF: Wausau’s CISM committee ranked railing for Bridge St bridge second for budgeting; likely to be done in 2017. CWOC/Parks Dept. has awarded Sylvan Hill mountain bike park bid. All downhill trails are expected to be completed in July 2017. Fundraising is still needed but not crucial for completion of basic park amenities.

LYNCH: MPO is nearing completion of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Open Streets event meeting on Monday, September 26 at Wausau City Hall. All interested can attend or contact LYNCH for information on how to help.

BURROWS: Bike rack at the Weston Farmers Market. Inverted U style will hold between 6-8 bikes and is removable for winter.

9. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Counter Update with emphasis on Wisconsin River Bridge numbers; Succession; bike helmet use; Upcoming projects.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 27, 2016

11. ADJOURN

Motion/second by BEATTY/RUFF to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent. Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by:
David Mack
Program Manager/MPO Director
Marathon County
Conservation, Planning and Zoning/Wausau MPO