



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STRATEGY & OUTCOMES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024**

A. Call to Order

Co-Chair Tom Egan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Co-Chair Tom Egan reported that Supervisor Buck is excused from today's meeting.

Members Present: 9 - Jon Doemel, Tom Egan, Chuck Farrey, Thomas Borchart, Morris Cox, Tom Belter, Beth Oswald, Tim Galloway, and Paul Kaiser

Absent: 1 - Andy Buck

Also Present at the Meeting:

*Cassie Smith-Gregor, Deputy County Clerk
Ethan Hollenberger, Assistant to the County Executive
Kimberly Bullington, Corporation Counsel
Scott Reif, Larsen-Winchester Sanitary District
Holly Stevens, Larsen-Winchester Sanitary District
Connie Kreutzberg, Larsen-Winchester Sanitary
District Ellen Skerke, Town of Neenah*

via ZOOM

*Supervisor Conley Hanson, District 26
Supervisor Ralph Harrison, District 31*

B. Public Comments

Scott Reif, Chairman of the Larsen-Winchester Sanitary District, apologized for not being able to attend the last meeting when the other members of the sanitary district addressed the commission regarding recent state of Wisconsin regulations regarding ammonia and phosphorus discharge limitations, which the existing treatment facility is unable to meet. The district board and staff have been working to comply with the unfunded mandate. The costs associated are quickly adding up. The board and staff are looking for other funding options. Mr. Reif asked for the commission's consideration of Spirit Funds to help support the cost of the project.

Ellen Skerke, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Neenah; thanked the commission for the \$145,000 in Spirit Funds that was given to the local municipalities. Ms. Skerke voiced her concerns regarding Resolution No. 281-112023 approving Spirit Funds for purchasing radios and radio equipment by the Winnebago County Fire Chief's Association that the County Board passed on November 21, 2023. She believed all the necessary documentation had been submitted and questioned the commission why those funds had not been distributed yet.

County Board Supervisor Conley Hanson recognized the work that Beth Oswald had done in the last term and thanked her for all her hard work. Ms. Oswald worked with numerous entities for projects that were submitted requesting funding from the government identified community projects category. Mr. Hanson also voiced his concerns regarding the hold-up of distribution of funds for the purchase of radios and equipment for the Fire Department Association. Mr. Hanson believes all remaining funds moving forward should go to infrastructure or what could be considered infrastructure for Winnebago County.

C. Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Belter, seconded by Doemel, to approve the March 6, 2024, meeting minutes.
CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.*

D. Business Items

1. **Discussion: Determine funding amounts for any other projects with the balance from the Government Identified Community Projects Category and Interest earned on the Spirit Funds.**

This item was put on the agenda to discuss how the commission would like to handle the remaining balance left in the Government Identified Community Governments Project Category.

Mr. Doemel would be in support of the remaining balance from the Government Identified Community Project Category and all the accrued interest be transferred into the County Government Category.

Mr. Farrey and Mr. Galloway expressed interest in finding a way to utilize at least the majority of the remaining balance and interest addressing some of the projects that have been submitted to the county after the date, in particular, the Larsen-Winchester Sanitary District issue. Mr. Farrey stated there have been plenty of needs and requests, and maybe the money should be appropriated to help the residents within those areas.

Paul Kaiser, Finance Director, clarified that the amount of interest is currently \$1.2 million per category. There's a total of \$8.7 million in the County Government Project category that has not been appropriated yet.

Mr. Doemel stated that the Executive Office has been working with Adam Dorn, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), on a dashboard, aka Spirit Fund Portal, to put on the county website to show people where and what projects were approved, appropriated, and what was done. They are trying to make this dashboard user-friendly and easy enough for people to use but detailed enough to tell the story of what the commission did. They are looking forward to having that tool released soon.

E. Next Meeting Date

It is possible that the Chairman of the County Board and Chairman of the Personnel & Finance Committee may change with this new term. The Election of Officers for these two positions will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, and Tuesday, April 23, 2024, during the County Board of Supervisors meetings. Therefore, the commission has decided to wait until both Chairman have been elected to determine the next meeting date.

F. Adjourn

Motion made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Doemel, to adjourn at 1:46 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Deputy Clerk