

CITY OF WHITEWATER
PLAN AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION
Whitewater Municipal Building Community Room
April 11, 2011

**ABSTRACTS/SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL
ACTIONS OF THE PLAN AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION**

Chairperson Torres called the meeting of the Plan and Architectural Review Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Torres, Dalee, Miller, Coburn, Knedler, Meyer, Zaballos, Kienbaum. ABSENT: Binnie. OTHERS: Wallace McDonell/City Attorney, Bruce Parker/Zoning Administrator.

HEARING OF CITIZEN COMMENTS. This is a time in the agenda where citizens can voice their concerns. They are given three minutes to talk. No formal Plan Commission Action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Items on the agenda may not be discussed at this time.

There were no citizen comments.

MINUTES. Moved by Miller and Coburn to approve the Plan Commission minutes of March 14, 2011. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE “REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN”. Dean Fischer, City of Whitewater Director of Public Works introduced Michael Hahn, the Chief Environmental Engineer for the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Michael Hahn explained that the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted a regional water supply plan for the Southeast Wisconsin Region. This plan has a design year of 2035 and represents a new major element of the evolving comprehensive plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The report documenting the new plan element is being provided to all water utilities; county, city, village, and town and special-purpose units of government; and State and Federal agencies that are identified in the plan as management agencies with plan implementation responsibilities. Those entities are also asked to adopt or endorse the plan. Included in the document is a brief description of the organizational structure of the water supply planning effort, a summary of the factors considered in the development of the adopted regional water supply plan, and a description of the adopted regional water supply plan.

Michael Hahn explained that the purpose of endorsement is to endorse the concept and idea that this plan will help to guide the city as it goes into the future with development and maintaining its water supply. The City of Whitewater fits into the Intermediate-Level Program of conservation where the utilities would continue to utilize groundwater as a source of supply with no outstanding significant groundwater quality issues requiring resolution. Components of this base level would be to maintain water supply efficiency standards, such as water audits, meter testing, leak detection and repair. It would also include a level of public education or programming for example having available plumbing retrofits, such as water saving shower heads etc., things that could be recommended and promoted to the users of the Water Utility; water conservation rate structures which the City of Whitewater is looking into and possibly more aggressive outdoor watering restrictions. These will enable the City of Whitewater to

maintain their deep aquifer as a sustainable source of water. They also recommend that the City monitor its water levels over time to be sure there is no significant draw down that might indicate a problem in that aquifer. SEWRPC also looked at protection and preservation of the groundwater recharge system where snow or rain fall infiltrate and get to the groundwater to provide a continuing source of water for the ground water. The northwest corner of Walworth County (Map 5) shows orange and red which is only low to moderate potential to recharge the groundwater. The Jefferson County part of the City of Whitewater was included in the plan (even if it does not show on the maps). In regard to the siting of high capacity wells, given that Whitewater has a number of lakes, they do have a recommendation that when a high capacity well is proposed, that it be evaluated for its affect on surface water resources, lakes and streams. The model that was developed for the region is a framework from which a more detailed evaluation could be made for a high capacity well as to how it would affect lakes and streams.

The Board Members asked questions about how fast the City's water elevations are changing and how to replenish the City's deep aquifer; explain the socio-economic analysis to support low income and minority areas; what is "enhanced recharge".

Dean Fischer, Director of Public Works, explained that the City's water elevations have changed a little bit, but not enough to have to lower the well units in order to have capacity so we don't air bound the pumps.

Michael Hahn explained that the City's deep aquifer is replenished by whatever water can infiltrate which does not have to go to deep, due to the rock depth, and also there is a general flow of ground water into the deep aquifer that comes from the west and goes to the east. So over a long period of time some of what replenishes the water to the west of Whitewater will get to the aquifer. It will get to the aquifer, but it travels very slowly.

The socio-economic analysis was done to see if any of these recommendations would place an undue socio-economic hardship upon any disadvantaged population. It was a general conclusion that it would not be the case. It was largely directed toward the extension of the Lake Michigan supply to other communities. The Great Lakes Compact does not allow diversion from Lake Michigan except under certain specific circumstances and then only with the consent of the State or with the consent of all eight Great Lakes States.

The 2035 Regional Land Use Plan has a provision that if found that the plan in any geographic location would not allow a sustainable water supply to be provided, they could amend the land use plan. They did not see a need to do that when they completed the process.

Enhanced recharge would be a way of promoting infiltration of rainfall or snow melt to a greater degree than what would naturally fall on the land surface. For example when you pave over a parking lot or build buildings the impervious land surface is reduced. Different facilities can be used to help retain water for infiltration to the groundwater. On a single lot level, one possibility could be a rain garden where you collect the water on the ground surface so it can infiltrate into the ground. On a larger area, infiltration basins that collect water from a greater area can be provided to promote more infiltration to the groundwater.

Michael Hahn explained that this information is given as an advisory and should help as the City develops in the future. The purpose of the endorsement is to inform our community to make sure it is aware of the plan. The endorsement will serve the community on a planning level to help guide the City into future development and maintaining its water supply.

Moved by Zaballos and Miller moved to recommend to the City Council to adopt the resolution for the “Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin”. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION:

- a. Future agenda items:** Zoning Administrator Bruce Parker stated that we will have one item on the May 9th Plan Commission agenda in regard to a conceptual review for an apartment building.

Plan Commission Member Kristine Zaballos’ term with the Plan Commission ends in May. The Plan Commission Members thanked Kristine for all her hard work and contributions to the Plan Commission.

The next regular Plan Commission meeting will be May 9, 2011.

Moved by Zaballos and Miller to adjourn at approximately 6:25 p.m. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Gregory Torres