

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
Thursday, May 21, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
Banbury Place, Eau Claire Conference Room
Eau Claire, WI**

Commissioners' Present: John Frank, Joe Waichulis, George Rohmeyer, Paul Berning, Sharon Kelly, Craig Fowler, Keith Karpenski, Adam Accola, Louie Okey, Joel Seidlitz, Diane Morehouse, Dane Zook, Chuck Hull, Peter Kaz, Jerome Krempasky

Commissioners Absent: Lorelee Clark, Stacey Wenzel, Mike Kneer, Jimmy Francis, Dani Erickson, Jerry Van Someren

Staff Present: Scott Allen, Erin Whyte, Susan Badtke, Eric Anderson

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Frank welcomed the Commissioners and WCWRPC Staff; requested Office Manager Whyte call the roll; quorum was present for the purpose of doing business.
3. **Overview of Nomination and Election Process for WCWRPC Officers** – Chair Frank explained the process to be used for nominating and electing the WCWRPC officers that were reviewed by the nominating committee.
4. **Election of WCWRPC Officers**– Nominating Committee Chair, Craig Fowler, presented the slate of candidates for positions Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations began and the unanimous election of the offers resulted in staying the same with Frank as Chair, Okey as Vice-Chair, and Waichulis as Secretary/Treasurer.

NEW CHAIR ASSUMES LEADERSHIP POSITION FOR MEETING (John Frank)

5. **Election of Executive Committee Members**- Chair Frank explained that the Executive Committee is comprised of one member from each county; the three elected officers are members, and a designated representative named from the counties without officer representatives are also members. The four representatives of the country to be approved for the Executive Committee were finalized. The results are as follows: (Officers) Eau Claire County - John Frank, Chair; Barron County - Louie Okey, Vice-Chair; Clark County - Joe Waichulis, Secretary/Treasurer. The other four counties to represent the Executive Committee will be: Chippewa County - Geroge Rohmeyer, Dunn County - Adam Accola, Polk County - Sharon Kelly, and St. Croix County - Paul Berning.
6. **Review and Approve Minutes of March 19, 2026, Commission Meeting**- Chair Frank introduced the minutes to be approved. Motion to approve was made by Morehouse, seconded by Kaz; motion carried.
7. **Review and Approve Disbursements**- Chair Frank asked the committee to review the disbursements that were handed out and he asked if any questions on the disbursements. Some questions were asked and Executive Director Allen answered the questions which were related to an extra payroll disbursement for April due to three pay periods. Allen also pointed out the annual ESRI subscription that was paid. Motion to approve the disbursements was made by Zook, seconded by Berning; motion carried.

8. **Resolution Recognizing Outgoing Commission Members**– Frank recognized the outgoing commission members who will not be returning for the 2026-2028 term. A motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-02 was made by Kaz, seconded by Rohmeyer; motion carried.
9. **Demographic Data Related to Updates to the WCWRPC Title VI Plan**—Eric Anderson, Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO Director, gave a brief presentation and distributed a demographic survey to the commission to be completed and turned back in. Anderson gave a brief background on the Title VI Plan, stating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Recipients which have transportation-related, non-elected boards, advisory council or committees, or similar bodies, must report membership of these committees broken down by race and include a description of efforts made to encourage the participation of minorities on these committees.

10 Minute Break

10. **WCWRPC Overview and Director’s Report**– Executive Director Allen, presented an overview of who WCWRPC is and projects that are being worked on. He announced his resignation and future plans. He also presented that WCWRPC is now 55 years old.
11. **Any Other Business or Updates**– Allen addressed the data center questions from the commission and noted it could be a future resource that the commission could help to navigate within communities.
12. **Next Commission Meeting Date**– Thursday, July 9, 2026; 10:00 a.m. - 6Four Accord, Cameron, WI
13. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date** – June 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Chair Frank commented that a special Executive Committee meeting will be needed to discuss Executive Director recruitment and hiring. (Note: special Executive Committee meeting was scheduled following Commission meeting.) Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026; 1:00 p.m.-Banbury Place, Eau Claire.
14. **Adjournment**- On a motion by Kaz and second by Morehouse, Chair Frank adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.