

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
Wednesday, May 27, 2026; 1:00 p.m.
Banbury Place, Room 405H, Eau Claire, WI**

Commissioners Present: John Frank, Louie Okey, Joe Waichulis, George Rohmeyer, Paul Berning, Sharon Kelly, Adam Accola

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott Allen, Erin Whyte, Kim Zimmerman, Susan Badtke

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Chair Frank requested that the WCWRPC Office Manager, Erin Whyte, take roll call; quorum was present for the purpose of doing business.
2. **Review and Approve Minutes of April 16, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting –** Frank requested a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Waichulis; motion carried.
3. **2026 Budget and Reserve Account Update –** Executive Director Allen gave an overview of the budget handouts that the Committee received at the meeting. Kim Zimmerman, Finance Manager, provided additional detail on the budget and the Commission’s financial status, providing a comparison of budget from 2024 to 2025. She pointed to the large increase in unavailable revenues from 2024 to 2025, which reflects work done in 2025 but not yet collected on due to large projects not yet being completed (County Comprehensive Plans and Hazard Mitigation Plans). Zimmerman confirmed that the reserve account is in good standing and in compliance with the Commission’s policy. Executive Director Allen stated that there are some pending projects that may come forward to the Commission for approval in the near future.
4. **Discussion on Data Centers –** Executive Director Allen gave a brief background on data center information gathering and the West Central Wisconsin Data Center Resource Hub prepared and hosted by Momentum West. Allen explained that the RPC could host forums on data centers and provide a space to educate while remaining neutral on the topic. Commissioner Accola updated the committee on Dunn County’s recent involvement with data centers in the City of Menomonie. A discussion was held about some of the pros and cons of data centers and how the main purpose of any forum would be to share factual information. It was decided after discussion that the job of the RPC is to educate, communicate, collaborate, and give facts on data centers. It was requested that staff put together a draft data center workshop/forum outline for consideration by the Committee. This topic will be revisited at the next Executive Committee meeting on June 10, 2026.
5. **Motion to go into Closed Session-** Chair Frank stated- “Pursuant to the Provisions of Section 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes to “Consider Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee over Which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility.” A motion was made to go into a closed session by Berning, seconded by Waichulis; closed session began at 1:45 p.m.
6. **Roll Call Vote to be Taken –** Chair Frank requested Office Manager Erin Whyte take roll call to go into closed session; motion carried unanimously. The full Executive Committee was present.

Closed Session 1:47 p.m.

7. **Executive Director Recruitment and Appointment of Interim Executive Director – Chair**
Frank shared materials that were used by the Commission in the hiring process for the Director in 2023. The Committee reviewed the handouts which included the Executive Directors hiring position description to be presented to the newspapers and online platforms, some updates were made in position description such as it was decided that the position would be available to internal staff and the external public; the ‘Master’s Degree Preferred’ would be taken out, and the salary was updated to reflect the current range. He also provided details of the hiring process such as Finance Manager Kim Zimmerman will oversee the applications. A timeline for the hiring process was presented with September being the goal of the newly hired director to be in position. The language and schedule were approved by the Committee.

Chair Frank requested that staff leave the meeting so that the Executive Committee could discuss hiring process and appointment of an Interim Director in private.

Executive Committee Members Only - Subject: Interim Executive Director. Discussion and decision on possible internal candidate to fill in once Allen is done June 12th. It was decided to bring back former executive director Lynn Nelson, to temporarily help lead the office. The consensus was to hire former Executive Director Nelson, part time, until new hire is in position.

8. **Motion to Return to Open Session –** Motion was made by Accola, seconded by Okey to return to Open Session. A unanimous vote was cast to go back into open session at 2:26 p.m. and staff re-entered the meeting.

Open Session 2:26 p.m.

9. **Any Appropriate Motion/ Actions –** Motion by Berning, second by Kelly, to authorize the Executive Committee Chair to negotiate a contract with Lynn Nelson to serve as Interim Director starting June 15th through approximately September. Motion was carried unanimously.
10. **Any Other Business or Updates –** Allen stated there were no other business updates at this time.
11. **Next Commission Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 9, 2026 – 6Four Accord, Cameron, WI
12. **Next Executive Committee Meeting Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Banbury Place, Eau Claire. Agenda items will include exit interview for Director Allen, data center forum discussion, and any other agreements or items for approval.
13. **Motion to Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn was made by Berning, seconded by Kelly. Citing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Whyte