

MINUTES – Project Kick-Off Meeting
Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Advisory Committee
January 21, 2022

Municipality	Primary Member	Present	Alternate Member	Present	Technical Staff / Others Present
City of Stevens Point	Mike Wiza		Joel Lemke	X	Ryan Kernosky
Village of Park Ridge	Steve Menzel		Paul McGinley		
Village of Plover	Steve Kunst	X	Dan Ault		
Village of Whiting	Kevin Lutz		Nic Schmeiser	X	Jake Wilcox
Town of Hull	Dave Wilz	X	Jan Way	X	
Town of Linwood	Howard Krieski	X	Daniel Wimme		
Town of Plover	Jim Garbe		Deb Sniadajewski	X	
Town of Stockton	Mike Bronk		Jeanne Dodge		

North Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission Staff Present: Darryl Landeau and Dennis Lawrence
Others Present: Al Haga, Portage County Board Chair
Staff Present: Tim Reed, Kristen Johnson, and Paula Cummings, Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

1. Members of the Public Who Wish to Address the Committee on Specific Agenda Items Must Register Their Request at this Time, with Such Comments Subject to the Reasonable Control of the Committee Chair as Set Forth in Robert's Rules of Order

No members of the public were present.

2. Call to Order

Landeau called the kick-off meeting of the Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Advisory (SSA) Committee to order at 10:04 am in Conference Room 5 of the County Annex. Landeau provided those present with a copy of the current sewer service area boundary map as approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on October 22, 2008.

3. Committee Member Introductions

Those present (see chart above) introduced themselves, noting the municipality they represent and position within that municipality.

4. Review of Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Advisory Committee Bylaws

(NOTE: Bylaws were included in the Committee meeting packet emailed prior to the meeting.)

Landeau referred to the bylaws and noted the sewer service process began as a requirement of the Clean Water Act as mandated by the State. Main purposes of the Plan, which covers urban areas with a 10,000+ population, includes protect/enhance water quality, encourage cost-effective methods of providing public services, protect environmentally sensitive areas, and reduce sprawl. The plan boundary is based on projected growth and sewer service development. The Plan update process will include review/re-establishment of the boundary, and review of environmental areas, which can be amended as necessary. Landeau noted the plan update is overdue and should be reviewed every 10 years, on a 20-year cycle. Membership consists of urban core municipalities, and an election of chair and vice-chair will take place at the next meeting. Landeau referred members to page 5 of the bylaws, where a weighted voting structure is described. He noted 51 votes out of the potential 100 votes constitutes a majority vote.

Kunst asked for clarification that attending a meeting virtually, would align with the currently required "personally attend" stipulation, and after brief discussion, members agreed virtual attendance would be accepted. Kunst then asked for a description of how the weighted vote was calculated. Landeau noted he had seen other SSA committees he worked with have a weighted vote based on population. He further noted our sewer service boundary population today is similar to 2007, which is the last time the weighed vote was reviewed. Cummings offered to research past records for a more detailed description.

Lawrence noted the previous SSA Committee Chair was from Park Ridge and the Vice-Chair was from the Village of Plover. An election will be on the next agenda and then the Chair will run these meetings. Cummings suggested anyone interested in either position contact Reed with their interest and to ask any questions they may have.

5. Overview of Sewer Service Area Planning Process – 2022-2042 Plan Update

Landeau felt a review of key plan elements could take place in 2-3 meetings (bi-monthly). Wastewater facilities will be discussed and determined as to how they will fit into the plan. Growth projections from the Department of Administration,

census data, and comprehensive plan information will be utilized. He noted the following will also take place: review of environmentally sensitive areas, goals and policies, and administrative procedures, to then determine what the sewer service boundary needs to look like. Text will then be updated/revised and agreed to by municipalities represented on the committee, based on these reviews. Lawrence stated the hope is to have the update completed in 6 meetings and referred to the current boundary map provided today. The update may change boundary lines when factoring-in population and removing environmentally sensitive areas.

Kernosky referenced best practices being followed based on existing conditions/developments and taken into consideration, such as Crossroads Commons/County Road HH line for sewer service boundary. Lawrence felt those issues need to be identified and discussed, and then determine how it relates to the plan. He noted the DNR looks from an areawide perspective, not a political aspect. Kernosky said his point was whether the plan is considered a political document or best practice. Lawrence replied the document is best practice; system-wide best practice.

6. Discuss Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity

Landeau asked the City of Stevens Point, Village of Plover and Village of Whiting to describe their treatment plants. **Village of Plover:** Kunst stated capacity is not a concern; they have vast capacity to handle current and future growth. Landeau asked if there are any issues and Kunst replied they are dealing with Phosphorus and believe Nitrates will be coming soon. **Village of Whiting:** Schmeiser reported they are using 1/3 of the capacity after a 2009 upgrade. Landeau asked about issues and Schmeiser replied there are none known, and they should be okay on Phosphorus. **City of Stevens Point:** Lemke stated on the liquid side, they are close to 50%; at 2.2 million gpd of a 4.4 million gpd capacity. As for solids, they are a bit over 50%; at 5-6,000 pounds per day of a 10,500 pounds per day capacity. Lemke noted this is not a simple figure because consumption changes; it is a rating only. A new rating could have a minor upgrade. Landeau referenced nitrate statistics and how that impacts plants. Kernosky said that is hypothetical and the DNR has not come out with anything. Lemke referenced Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) are not at a need for upgrade but felt that would be a common theme as it comes down from the DNR. As for cities and tertiary treatment, he felt they are all thinking about it. He then referenced PFAS, noting those have an implication for Wisconsin and is more a solid waste issue. The City takes leachate but felt "we are all in this together". Lemke referred to distributed resources – large communities vs. other resources such as a regional treatment plant and felt this should be part of the committee's discussion. Landeau said discussion on regionalization is required by the DNR and pros/cons will be discussed.

Lawrence asked about operational, customer, and/or cost issues. Schmeiser felt rates are a concern as a lower number of users equals a higher cost.

7. Discuss Development Trends and Issues/Concerns Related to Sewer Service Area

Landeau noted comprehensive plans address future development and asked municipalities if their plans are current. Johnson stated the Town of Hull is updating their plan, which should be finished this year, Linwood's plan is almost done, and the Town of Plover just finished theirs. Kunst stated the Village of Plover is getting back into an update that should be done before the end of the year. Kernosky noted the City of Stevens Point's 2015 update was not adopted and they will begin again this summer with a focus on neighborhoods, which is a 3-4 year process.

Landeau asked about trends. Kunst stated the focus of the Village of Plover will be infill of higher density redevelopment, i.e.: downtown area. There is a challenge with annexation and sewer/water, and they are working with the Town of Plover. Commercial and manufacturing development has out-paced other areas of development. They would like to see suburban neighborhoods and more subdivisions. Kernosky said the City has lost some population and they are challenging the census data, but acknowledges it must be utilized. Kunst referenced residential development (single family development by Smiley's) and general commercial growth, with additional commercial growth coming. Schmeiser said the Village of Whiting is a bit condensed with some residential and some commercial. He noted since 2007, the Village lost a huge industrial user with the papermill closing in 2013.

Landeau then asked about trends in the townships. Sniadajewski described very light residential development and a potential solar farm that is being proposed on the southwest portion of the town into the Town of Grant. This is in preliminary stages. There is concern about sewer service based around Shooter's/Kwik Trip/Highway 51 and I39 intersection/hotel and the extension of sewer and water there to help with their needs. Wilz stated there are 10-12 homes per year going up in the Town of Hull. Kunst stated politics should be taken out of the discussion, and with seven planners on the committee, we should be able to come up with a good plan. He acknowledged the City and Village had challenges in the past and current staff are willing to work together. Let's implement best practice and remove politics. Lemke noted the last sewer service area map shows a proposed Town of Plover boundary. Kunst stated the Village and Town of Plover have a boundary agreement, which was approved – areas were sewerred without annexation.

8. Discuss Community American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation Plans

Landeau asked where communities are with ARPA spending plans. Lawrence asked if any plans would impact the sewer service process or areas. This information can be used in the planning process. Kunst stated the Village of Plover is in early stages of prioritizing expenditures. Lemke noted the City is initially adding 20% to annual reconstruction costs. Schmeiser said the Village of Whiting is preliminarily looking at a 50/50 split between sewer and water.

9. Discuss Next Meeting Date, Including Possible Virtual Attendance Option

Landeau said the next meeting would be in March, as they hope to meet bi-monthly. Some members felt Friday morning was not the best time to meet. It was decided that Cummings would send a Doodle poll to members offering Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning or afternoon to determine what day of week and time of day is preferred. Members agreed that meetings should be offered both in-person and virtual. Lawrence stated meetings should be held to 1 or 1.5 hours. Landeau reminded members a Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at the March meeting.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Cummings
Recording Secretary