

(approved by committee on December 10, 2020)

**RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020 - SUMMARY MINUTES**

Ives Grove Auditorium  
Ives Grove Office Complex  
14200 Washington Avenue  
Sturtevant WI 53177

While both the building and the meeting is open to the public, in keeping with the CDC's recommendations on social distancing, members of the public are strongly encouraged NOT to attend the meeting in person. Citizens wishing to make a public comment are strongly encouraged to submit such comments in writing to RCPUBLICWORKS@Racinecounty.com before 4 pm on Thursday, October 8, 2020. (Please note: Seating for the public is very limited due to social distancing requirements. Masks are required in all Racine County buildings.) DO NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING if you are experiencing any of these symptoms or if you have been in contact with anyone with these symptoms: shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, chills, nasal congestion, sore throat, fatigue, loss of sense of taste or smell, fever greater than 100.4 F.

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**Committee Present:** Robert Grove, Tom Kramer, Jody Spencer (conf call),  
Brett Nielsen (conf call), Eric Hopkins, Tom Hincz

**Committee Excused:** Thomas Pringle

**Youth in Governance  
Representatives:** Roselyn Pachero (excused), Robert Barkley Jr. (excused)

**Staff Present:** Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director  
Jonathan Delagrave, Racine County Executive  
Dave Prott, Highways & Parks Superintendent  
Ben Haas, Parks  
Roley Behm (conf call), Engineering Manager

**Others Present:** Dave Easley  
Dave Giordano  
Mike Frontier (Conf call)  
Mark Hertzberg (Conf call)  
Fred Billman (Conf call)

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**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Bob Grove.

**2. Review and possible approval of the draft summary minutes for the October 8, 2020 meeting.**

**Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved**, seconded by **Supervisor HINCZ**, to approve these minutes as presented at 6:02 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0**

**3. Public Comments**

**NONE**

**4. Presentation and discussion regarding a potential ice rink facility project in Racine County (no action will be taken).**

Anderson noted there were no handouts in Committee packets for this item. Co Exec Delagrave introduced this item. He indicated that a group has come forward with a significant private contribution possible to locate and construct a community ice facility in Racine County. There is no site determined yet and this is only a preliminary information sharing meeting. Possible outcomes of this project could be “no, various sites to investigate, partners, etc.” Anderson noted that there is currently no ice facility in Racine County.

Dave Easley, Mike Frontier, Mark Hertzberg and Fred Billman all spoke briefly about why Racine County would benefit from having an ice facility. They emphasized this would not just be for hockey, but it would be for public skating, skating lessons, tournaments and activities that could bring a lot of money to this area, including restaurants, stores and hotels that would get a lot of business from visitors. The group sees this as an investment into the Racine Community.

Discussion followed about the history of the former rink downtown Racine, and it was noted that the chiller broke and would have required \$300,000 to repair, and a funding opportunity fell apart so that was never repaired or reopened. There was also discussion about a year-round indoor facility and revenues. No firm numbers or sites were discussed at this time. County Executive Delagrave informed the Committee that there would be some additional feasibility study done on this proposed project and that this would be brought back to the Committee in coming months. There was no action taken on this item.

**5. Review and discussion regarding “Pritchard Park Pond Water Quality Improvement Project” by Dave Giordano, ROOT-PIKE WIN (no action will be taken).**

Anderson indicated that there were several renderings in the packets for Committee review. Dave Giordano informed the Committee about the proposed clean up and restoration of the pond at Pritchard Park, which is immediately adjacent to the Wiezorek pavilion. The work is outlined in the Pike River Watershed Restoration Plan, and this is going to be a privately funded restoration project through the Palmer Foundation. The project goal is to remove the goose manure around the pond and pavilion, to improve water quality in the pond to allow fishing and enjoyment of the pond by visitors, and to achieve objectives outlined in the Pike River Watershed Restoration Plan. The timing of the project would be during low use times in the Park, such as late fall or early spring. The rock will be removed from around the pond and native grasses will be added. There will be educational signs installed to explain the work and to showcase the partnership with ROOT-PIKE WIN, and that work will likely commence in 2021. Anderson indicated that this item was not up for action at the meeting tonight, but that it would be on a future agenda for action by the Committee. The Committee was pleased to hear about this project, and they support the plan as presented by Dave Giordano. There was no action taken on this item.

**6. Review, discussion and possible action regarding a Resolution for a Federal Cost Sharing Agreement for a feasibility study of the Horlick Dam (action requested plus fiscal note approval with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the November 24 County Board meeting due to timeliness issues).**

Anderson introduced this item, along with Roley Behm. She indicated that the US ACOE would like to assist Racine County with bringing the Horlick Dam into compliance with the WI DNR order which must be done by April 2024. The item on the agenda tonight will allow Racine County to enter into a Federal Cost Sharing Agreement. Racine County's portion of this cost share is \$30,000. Anderson emphasized that there are a few options available to Racine Co for bringing the Horlick Dam into compliance. When asked, she confirmed that the least expensive option is to remove the Dam and restore areas above and below the spillway. Anderson informed the Committee that the dam was completely rebuilt in the mid-1970s, but that it serves no functional purpose except as a spillway. The Dam is out of compliance because it is too tall, and because it does not function properly in the event of a historic flood event. The history of the dam goes back over 100 years when the Horlick Malted Milk Company was located in that area. The cost sharing agreement will allow the US ACOE to prepare a feasibility study that will include sediment sampling, wetlands delineations and also a floodplain management plan as well as other aspects attendant to the Dam. There is a timeliness issue so staff is requesting 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Resolution at the Nov 24 County Board meeting, as well as approval of the fiscal note that was included in the packets. Anderson noted that the Resolution language is being prepared, but that the Agreement in their packets gives the full description of what the US ACOE will deliver to the County. Anderson will email to the Committee the draft Resolution the week of Nov 16, 2020. Anderson and Behm noted that the \$30,000 cost by the County is being taken from money allocated to the Dam from a grant previously received from the Fund for Lake Michigan organization.

**Supervisor Tom HINCZ moved**, seconded by **Supervisor SPENCER**, to forward Resolution for first and section reading of the County Board on November 24, 2020. This includes approval of the fiscal note for \$30,000. **Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0**

**7. Communications and Referrals**

NONE

**8. Miscellaneous Public Works business**

- Note: There will be NO PWPFC meeting on Thursday, November 26, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Next scheduled PWPFC meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2020 (It is anticipated this will be the final meeting of this Committee for the year 2020).

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, **Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved**, seconded by **Supervisor HINCZ**, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0**