



Resolution

No. 2021-42

Adding a Specific Reference in Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from Real Property Taxes

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area; *and*,

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to real property for such purposes; *and*,

WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14); *and*,

WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15); *and*,

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them; *and*,

WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status; *and*,

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint “districts” of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2); *and*,

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 25th day of May 2021, to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: “**regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309**”; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bayfield County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator Bewley, Representative Meyers, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

By Action of the:

Bayfield County Board of Supervisors



Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2021-42, Volume 29, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 25th day of May 2021.



Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*