

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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East Michigan Council of Governments
Full Council Meeting
Friday, January 22, 2016
Buena Vista Charter Township
1160 South Outer Drive Saginaw, MI 48601

MINUTES

PRESIDING: William Rhode, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Rhode. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Introduction of new Council members and guests

The following new members or guests were introduced:

- Brenda Bachelder, Michigan Works! and Arenac County EDC
- Corey Schmidt, Village Manager, Village of Marlette (Sanilac County)
- Brian Chapman, City Manager, City of Vassar
- Tom Stephenson and Dan Manning – Connect Michigan (Broadband)
- Trevor Keyes, Bay Future, Inc.
- Christine Greve, MI-SBDC, Delta College
- Bob Balzer, Gladwin EDC and Michigan Works!
- Gary Kellan, Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport
- Ann Richards, Oscoda Township DDA

Dexter Mitchell welcomed all to the Charter Township of Buena Vista and thanked the Council for selecting Buena Vista Township for their January organizational meeting.

Revised Agenda:

Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Moffit to approve the revised agenda adding one additional item. Motion carried.

November 2015 minutes

Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/O'Farrell to approve and file the November 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

No one wished to be heard.

Program Updates

Transportation, Logistic & GIS – Dave Engelhardt

Dave provided an overview of 2015 Transportation related programs being undertaken by the Regional Transportation staff. They include but are not limited to:

- **Development of the 2017- 2020 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program).** This work includes development by the Region's Rural Task Forces of their street plans; where they are focusing spending money both for road work and transit through 2017-2020.
- **Management of the Rural Task Force process** throughout the 14 county region. This work includes populating required e-files for MDOT and submitting those to the State.
- **Transit Mobility Study:** KFH was selected as a vendor to come up with a Regional Transit Mobility Plan based on the RPI 8 Counties. Staff has been provided with an initial draft of one section of that plan therefore a full update is not yet ready.
- **HPMS (Highway Performance Management System)** is underway. It is a bit behind schedule but that is because there are new staff and they have been extremely busy.

Hazard Mitigation Plans – Bill Ernat

- Progress continues on completing all steps required by MSP and FEMA for an acceptable Hazard Mitigation Plan. We are currently working in five counties. All of the Counties are in approximately the same spot in terms of preparation.
- Chapters are being reviewed and a final list of projects will soon become our action list. In addition to the action list, we have low priority projects that are not included in the action list, but we are putting in the appendix, so that if something should rise in the next couple years they can always change it.
- The last thing we are doing in the chapter is the follow-up process. This includes setting up an annual review process and identifying who is or will be responsible for it going forward.
- In the coming weeks, Bill will be finishing writing up all the different process that we've used and putting all the paperwork together.
- We are also waiting for a couple more counties to provide surveys for their communities to make sure that their ideas and their needs are addressed in the plan as well. There aren't too many meetings in February - they will begin again in March.

MDNR Recreation Grant Program for 2016 – Bill Ernat

- Staff attended a recreation grant program held by DNR where they identified the three (3) available funding programs; the Michigan National Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport program.
- In order to apply for the Trust Fund and the Conservation Fund, you need to have an up to date (no older than five (5) years) recreation plan in place. If you don't have one you can't apply.
- The Recreation Passport program will allow you to have a capital improvement program in place. As long as you have that you can apply.
- Applications are due April 1. The amount of money you need varies with each program but there is a 25% match required for the Trust Fund and a 50% match for the Passport program and the Land and water fund. There are no extra points for going over in match. Awards are for spring of next year for this year cycle.

2016 Michigan Blight Elimination Program statement and application. The Land Bank and MSHDA have a million dollars to assist communities with the elimination of blight. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000.00 but they're awarding points for many different categories. The less you apply for the

more points you get. You have to have a plan in place to work on the blight. Industrial property is not eligible. Larger communities that have funds in the hardest hit areas like the Saginaw and Detroit are not eligible to apply. If you have other grants funds for blight that you are sitting on, you're not eligible as well.

Blight: Staff also attended a webinar and received more information on blight. Those programs have handouts as well. The Michigan vacant property campaign is a program where they are looking to help communities with this issue. There are four groups working together on this - the Center for Community Progress, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, Michigan Municipal League, and the Michigan Communities Resource Group - to help communities eliminate blight. They set up a program, they will work with you to eliminate blight and follow that up with a development process. You can contact CEDAM directly and they can probably help you, or go to their website. They are offering technical assistance for vacant properties, asset mapping, legal analysis, and re-development assistance.

Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy Appointment: Jane reported that she has been appointed to the Board of the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy which encompasses all of our coastal counties in the region. She will be representing EMCOG.

Reports:

Chairman's Report

C/Rhode reported that this was his last meeting with EMCOG. He is retiring for health reasons. He stated that he had really enjoyed his time with the Council.

Director's Report

The Director's report was sent out prior to the meeting. Work primarily centered on the 3rd year RPI application and year end program reports.

The Director also reported that there is considerable discussion ongoing regarding how **PA269** limits communication on matters related to sharing of information on ballot proposals or things of that nature. She asked that any Commissioner with knowledge of PA269 to report under Commissioner Reports.

As a final comment, she noted that we, as staff, have been extra busy in the last couple of years doing RPI work. The state-designated RPI region covers 8 counties out of the 14. The geographic configuration of the Prosperity Region basically cuts off the top 3 counties and the Thumb in terms of activities that can be done under the RPI grant. The configuration moves the top three counties to the Prosperity Region to our North (Prosperity Region 3) and the Thumb counties into the Flint RPI Region (Prosperity Region 6) and moves them into the Prosperity Region to our north. She stressed that she did not want the northern counties or any of the counties defined within the EDD designation to feel that we have abandoned them in any capacity, because as the Economic Development District for the 14 counties, it is our role and our responsibility to serve you as well.

If you have questions, thoughts or concerns on this, please contact the Director. The Economic Development Strategy for the Prosperity Region (ECM PR-5) has been integrated into the 14 county CEDS.

Financial Report – C/Dworzecki

Motion by C/Moffit, seconded by C/Mitchell, to receive and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The following slate of individuals was placed in nomination for 2016 EMCOG Officers.

Nominations for EMCOG Board:

Chairperson – Robert Moffit
1st Vice Chair – Steve Erickson
2nd Vice chair – Kathy Methner
Secretary – Jay O’Farrell
Treasurer - Zygmunt Dworzecki

There was a call for other nominations from the floor. There were none.

Motion by C/Byard, seconded by C/Moffit to accept the proposed slate of 2016 officers. Motion carried.
A single vote was taken on the entire slate of nominations since there were no other nominations.
Motion carried.

2016 Chairperson Moffit assumed the meeting.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS (All action items)

2016 Signatures to all contracts, documents, grants, etc: Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Kroczaleski to authorize appropriate signatories to all EMCOG legal documents, checks, contracts, bank signature cards, etc. Motion carried.

2016 USDA grants: Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Methner to authorize staff to review, prepare and apply for USDA grants in 2016 if applicable and match requirement can be met. Motion carried.

2016 MDEQ/MDNR grants: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/O’Farrell to authorize staff to review, prepare and apply for DEQ/DNR grants in 2016 if applicable and match requirement can be met. Motion carried.

2016 CEDS approval, finalization and submittal: Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Mitchell to authorize the RED Team and EMCOG staff to finalize and submit the 2016 CEDS to EDA Chicago for review and filing with copies to be provided to Full Board for distribution. Motion carried.

2016-2019 EDA Partnership Planning Grant: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Moffit to authorize staff to prepare and submit the 2016-2019 EDA Planning Partnership grant and to authorize the Chair to sign any and all required and/or necessary documents, letters, etc. on behalf of that grant. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION:

Tom Stephenson and Dan Manning from Connect Michigan gave a brief presentation on the Connect American Fund Phase II subsidies to upgrade broadband networks in Michigan. There was discussion following the presentation and both Mr. Manning and Mr. Stephenson will be staying after for further questions.

Need for two more Meeting sites:

The Director noted that we need two additional meeting sites: March and September. C/Meyers volunteered to host our March meeting in Houghton Lake and C/Methner will host our September meeting in Isabella County.

Commissioner comments, reports, item of concern, etc.

Brian Chapman - new City Manager for the City of Vassar reported he had been there since October and is currently learning all he can about the community. Next year he will be focusing on putting plans together on what we are planning on what we are going to do in the next few years. So there isn't too much to report.

Erik Rodriguez - Public Relations Director for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Reported on Tribal projects in the works primarily the expansion of the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino. This includes a 150 room hotel, a couple restaurants and additional gaming amenities. Ground breaking will hopefully be this spring.

Pattie Rayl - City Manager of Auburn. The road projects we have planned have been submitted to MATS (Midland Area Transportation Study). These include re-surfacing one of our main roads. Approval is hoped for in 2018. We are also submitting a USDA grant to help us to put a new roof over our existing ice rink/basketball court to use as a Farmers Market in the summer.

Adam Kroczaleski - Arenac Commissioner. Standish has a new city manager; Curt Hillman has stepped down to take on more responsibilities at his place of business. Jerry Nelson is the new city manager for Standish. The County currently does not have any new projects beginning; we have a DNR grant that we are finishing up at Pt. Au Gres Park which includes installing running water and electricity to rustic cabins we have up there. Still looking at GIS trying to get our County up and running.

Tracy Byard – Clare County Administrator - This past Saturday was the first annual Snowball Dance. This activity raised funds for our Veterans Freedom Park. They raised over \$9,600.00 between 50/50 tickets and the tickets they sold for the dance. Our local Moose Lodge put on the event along with our Veterans Affairs Office and did a wonderful job. Our county airport is also looking at funding for sealing cracks in our runway. We hope to begin that in spring.

Trevor Keyes - Bay Future. Bay Future is the county wide economic development organization for Bay County. We most recently began working on a feasibility study for what will be a capital campaign to boost our economic development efforts in Bay County. We are working on about 15 projects right now which is a positive sign. There is also interest in relocation near the I-75 thoroughfare and in dredging the Saginaw River to allow vessels to move upstream further.

Rosalie Myers – Roscommon County EDC – The County also has a small county airport as well and our present project of fencing is moving forward because of deer. We did have a deer - plane crash a couple of months ago that caused \$100,000 worth of damage to the plane. That fencing project needed to be

started this time of year because of the swamp. The county had also begun putting money aside for a Revolving Loan Fund. She extended thanks to Bob Balzer as he provided necessary information on the RLF program.

In moving forward, the County will be looking further at broadband, social media programs, etc., that we're going to be offering for this year.

Brenda Bachelder– EDC Board- Roscommon County and EDC liaison for Arenac County. Arenac County will be working on broadband certification.

Christine Greve – Delta College Small Business Development Center. Tony Fox and I share the representative role on the RED Team. An e-mail was sent to all RED Team members last evening regarding an upcoming cyber security small business seminar that will be held next Friday at Delta College, it's free and it's good information. It's an awareness initiative. Everyone is invited.

Mandy Chasey - Ogemaw County EDC/MEDC Region 7B Work Force – The Ogemaw County Annual Community Business Expo will be held April 7th at the High School. Over 150 business and thousands of people annually visit. The EDC is partnering with the Chamber this year to plan it. Michigan Works was also awarded a couple of job training contracts last week which was very good news.

Dexter Mitchell Township Manager for Buena Vista Charter Township: Once again welcomed the Council to Buena Vista Charter Township. We have a streetscape project ongoing across the street. This project took a couple of years for the feds and the state to work out the grant funding for it. Our Hotel Task Force has been very active. We currently have two (2) hotels that are now closed down and others are being worked on as well. The Township also has one of the largest FedEx buildings in the area - a 215,000 square foot building that will be operational this year.

Kathy Methner - Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Michigan Works Region 7B. This week Dan Manning, Tom Stephenson, and I had an opportunity to meet with MEDC to petition them to assist with marketing the capabilities of broadband. It's amazing what capabilities we do have throughout our Region and throughout the state but one of the things we don't do very well is to promote our capabilities. Clare and Mt. Pleasant in my area are both 1 gig communities and Harrison is working on becoming a 1 gig community. All of Gratiot County is and each community in Gratiot County is. We aren't telling our story and so we met with MEDC folks and they were quite interested in this, so there will likely be more to come.

Corey Schmidt - new City Manager of Marlette. I'm from Michigan originally but have been in Ohio for the last four years. In Marlette, there are a couple of streetscape projects in the works for this year. We also have one of the few remaining community pools in the Thumb region. We recently received a grant to acquire a new liner and we are building a small splash pad to add as another amenity. Hopefully it will be open this June.

Steve Erickson - Tuscola County, Executive Director of EDC. The EDC currently has many projects ongoing and it has been an unusually busy since October. The EDC also had over \$200,000 in requests for a lease equipment program. They will be awarded.

Zygmunt Dworzecki – Tuscola County planning commission and several committees. In Tuscola County we have a Food Hub that is moving along. We continue to seek sponsors for funding. The Food Hub

hopes to acquire a new building as the original building has already filled with tenants. We also were able to get Caro's Farmers Market and the Chamber gave up on it and gave Caro all the rights.

Jay O'Farrell Iosco County - The City of Whittemore just picked up a grant for \$45,000.00 for the development of Town Square Railroad Park.

Jay deferred to **Gary Kellan, Manager for Wurtsmith Airport** to report on their activities. . The runway is due for a re-surfacing. This is an estimated \$8 million dollar project.

Bob Moffit Manager City of Gladwin – The City is working on a bike path project which is one of over 20 new projects underway.

Following Commissioner reports the Director presented out-going Chair, William Rhode with a letter of appreciation from the Council and a cake.

There being no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 11:30 a.m. by the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne".

Lynne Parker
Office Manager/Assistant Planner