

# EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

3144 DAVENPORT AVENUE, SUITE 200, SAGINAW, MI. 48602

PHONE: 989-797-0800, FAX: 989-797-0896

[WWW.EMCOG.ORG](http://WWW.EMCOG.ORG)



## EMCOG FULL COUNCIL MEETING Friday, March 4, 2016 - 10:00 A.M. Houghton Lake Public Library 4431 West Houghton Lake Drive Houghton Lake, Michigan 48620 989-366-9230

### MINUTES

**PRESIDING:** 2<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Kathy Methner

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the acting Chair. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

#### **Guests:**

#### **New Council members:**

Brian Smith – Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

Kasey Zehner – Greater Gratiot Development Corporation

#### **Revised Agenda**

Moved by Dworzecki, seconded by Myers to approve the revised agenda as mailed. Motion carried.

#### **January 22, 2016 minutes for approval**

Moved by Dworzecki, seconded by Meyers to approve the January 22, 2016 minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment Period**

There was no public in attendance.

#### **F. REPORTS**

##### **Chairman's Report**

C/Methner offered her thoughts on MSU Extension and their Ag Bio Research project noting that we all ultimately benefit from this work. She urged Council members to be aware of funding issues facing Extension and the Ag Bio Research project and if the issue comes up in individual counties to financially support both.

She also noted that the MSU Extension Region Strategic Planning sessions results will be reported out

by March 30, 2016.

### **Director's Report**

The Directors report was sent out prior to the meeting. She expressed Chairperson Moffit's regret in not being able to attend but he is still recuperating from his recent surgery. She thanked C/Methner for chairing this meeting.

In other news, there are many legislative bills pending but Lansing's attention is currently focused on Flint. Additionally, the Council has been approached by Land Policy Institute to consider hosting a Placemaking workshop within the region. A survey request will be sent out next week to determine interest in such an activity. If there is interest, this will be a separate event from a regularly scheduled Council meeting.

The Director also asked Council members to be thinking about potential speakers for upcoming meetings. The Council does not always have a speaker but if there are issues that members want further information or explanation on, we will certainly see that the proper persons are available to provide same. She indicated that one of the first potential speakers she will be reaching out to is Laura Ogar, Director of Environmental Affairs & Community Development for Bay County with regard to their proposed regional septic code. More information will be forthcoming when details are worked out.

There was discussion including questions regarding interaction with health departments and utilizing a possible web-based application to identify where septic systems are located.

C/Chasey asked if we could have Lee Shirey attend a future Council meeting with C/Meyers noting how helpful our speed-dating "meet the funders" event had been.

### **Financial Report**

The Financial report had been mailed with the agenda packet. C/Dworzecki reviewed the report for the Council. Moved by C/O'Farrell, seconded by C/Chasey to received and file the Financial report. Motion carried.

### **G. STAFF Reports**

**Transportation Program update** (including Transit Mobility Study and Iron Belle Trail facilitation for 4 counties - Dave Engelhardt

#### **RTF:**

Dave reported that this is the area in which he is spending most of his time which includes attending required meetings over the last 3-4 months because of the Call for Projects for the 2017-2020 TIP.

As of this week there will be a new Rural Task Force contact at MDOT – Darrell Hardin. Mr. Hardin has been with MDOT for 11 years but is new to this position.

#### **Small Urban Program:**

This program applies to areas between 5,000 and 50,000 population. The call for projects in this funding area is through the end of April and this also includes the Tribe. There is \$375,000 in STP

funding eligible per Small Urban area.

#### **Rural Transit:**

This project has been ongoing for nearly a year and is focused on a more comprehensive regional approach to transit than in prior years and is to be done by RPI region. The draft plan should be out by the end of the month. It should be coming to each RPI region by the end of March for comment.

Within our 8-county Prosperity Region there weren't many specific targets other than you needing more coordination. We will be having a meeting of the 8 county transit agencies to see if they want to collaborate in the future. This should happen within the next 6 months. If yes, MDOT has indicated that there is some rural transit planning funding to move that process along.

#### **Iron Belle Trail Facilitation**

This is a DNR project that covers 4 counties within EMCOG – Arenac, Bay, Saginaw and Tuscola. The Governor wants the Trail developed before the end of his term. EMCOG and NEMCOG (region to the North) have been asked to facilitate Trail development through these counties. Staffing details are still being worked out.

The Director provided additional information specifically regarding the need to have an up to date Recreation Plan if you are in a county through which Iron Belle will traverse and would like to access funding either for recreational facilities or amenities which could be associated with the Trail. If a county intends to use MDOT TAP funds to for a project in an area through which Iron Belle will be placed, there is no need to have an up to date Recreation Plan.

There was discussion. C/O'Farrell offered his concerns regarding the cost to local units for the development of this trail noting that ongoing maintenance will be a major issue.

If you desire additional information on any of these topics, please contact Dave.

#### **Hazard Mitigation update**

Bill Ernat provided a status report on his activities prior to the Council member. He did note that Hazard Mitigation planning for the five (5) counties is winding down and that he is insuring that what is included in those plans is consistent with what Michigan State Police and FEMA are looking for and in the proper format. If there are other counties that need assistance in updating their Hazard Mitigation plans, he would be available to discuss additional details. We are currently awaiting information on the status of Sanilac County's application for funding.

He also provided updates on Community Wildfire Protection Plan development. This is DNR funded project funding. Please contact Bill if you desire additional information.

He also reported on the recent work he did with Buena Vista Charter Township on the Blight Elimination Grant proposal.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **SVSU contract – 3<sup>rd</sup> year RPI project:** Moved by Dworzecki, seconded by C/O'Farrell to approve EMCOG entering into a contract with SVSU to complete the "Quantifying Talent Study" for the ECM

Prosperity Region 5 year 3 RPI award. Contracted amount: \$28,951.77. Details regarding preparation of a dashboard, including cost, are not yet finalized. This item was identified by the ECM PR-5 Collaborative as its top priority item for 2016. Motion carried.

2. **Iron Belle Trail:** Moved by Dworzecki, seconded by Byard to authorize EMCOG entering into an agreement with DNR to provide staffing for Trail facilitation related to the Iron Belle Trail in the counties of: Arenac, Bay, Saginaw and Tuscola County. Phase I: DNR Contract – \$30,000 for 3-1-16 to 9-30-16. DNR proposes that this will be a 3-year commitment with additional funding being available 10-1-16 – amount unknown. Motion carried with one (1) Nay.

3. **ICMA Retirement Plan:** Moved by Dworzecki, seconded by O’Farrell to authorize the Council to adopt the new required ICMA Adoption agreement for our 401 Plan and to authorize the Executive Director to execute all required documents. ICMA has received approval from the IRS of their 401 Plan document. As a Plan sponsor, we are required to adopt ICMA’s restated plan document which ensures that our Plan is updated in accordance with current IRS regulations. Motion carried.

#### **MICHIGAN FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW**

Moved by Dworzecki, seconded by Byard to approve project review comments to member projects thus authorizing their submission to the funders. Non-member projects are included in the review period but no specific project concurrence is provided. Motion carried.

#### **Council member reports**

C/Dworzecki:

- Provided a hand out that includes information on an upcoming workshop from the Saginaw Bay Conservation Initiative (SBCI) on Phragmites.
- He also noted that the Caro Food Hub is progressing and a third phase wind farm is going up.
- There will also be upcoming CNA classes at the Tuscola Tech Center.

Rosalie Myers:

- Rowe Engineering donated coffee and cookies for our meeting.
- She also distributed maps of the proposed Blue Water Trail around Houghton Lake (Kayak Trail).

Erin Adams:

- Dan Leonard of MEDC will be returning to Roscommon with information from numerous strategic planning sessions.
- Kirtland is very busy with the 4-mile Road campus project as well as revising programs
- Workforce Development – Skilled trades training is settled up in Gaylord. Efforts are underway to building the curriculum on line with students coming to campus on a set day to work through the various skills.

Brenda Bachelder:

- Arenac County’s first community broadband meeting will be held soon.
- A Career Building Trades summit was recently held in Roscommon. 157 people attended.

**Mandi Chasey:**

- Will be hosting an upcoming professionalism on social media network workshop
- There will be a Customer Service workshop held in conjunction with the SBDC.
- There are 120 businesses signed for up for the Business Expo.

**Tracy Byard:**

- Held the first annual Easter egg hunt at the Clare Airport to promote the airport.

**Erik Rodriguez:**

- No much to discuss today but there is much ongoing. He urged everyone to check their website for upcoming events.

**Brian Smith:**

- The Tribe is partnering with MMDC on a USDA application for their Hops Feasibility Study. Jane noted that this is one of our four (4) Centers of Excellence focus areas.

**Jay O'Farrell:**

- Iosco County has a new Commission – Roger \_\_\_\_\_. Mr. Cudney has stepped down.
- Provided a Letter of Support for the new East Tawas bathhouse and picnic pavilion on US-23. This will provide an extension to the Park and will include a laundry/shower facility for travelers as well as campers and 125 additional parking spaces.

**Kasey Zehner:**

There is a new Vice President at Greater Gratiot Development Corporation; Jim Wheeler will take on Don Schurr's role when he retires in a year and a half.

Any Other Business

C/Byard reported that she has a list of MAC supported Legislation that she will provide to the office.

L. Public – or Council member - Comment Period  
None

There being no other business to come before the Council, it was moved by Meyers, seconded by Chasey that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Adjournment – 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Fortune  
Executive Director

**NOTE: Our NEXT MEETING – MAY 6, 2016 at the Riverwalk Place in Gladwin**



## ***2016 MEETING SCHEDULE***

| MONTH                                                                                 | TYPE         | TIME       | LOCATION                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------------------|
| January 22, 2016                                                                      | Full Council | 10:00 a.m. | Saginaw – Buena Vista Charter Township |
| March 4, 2016<br>(March 11 <sup>th</sup> – backup date if there is inclement weather) | Full Council | 10:00 a.m. | Houghton Lake Public Library           |
| May 6, 2016                                                                           | Full Council | 10:00 a.m. | Gladwin - Riverwalk                    |
| July 8, 2016                                                                          | Full Council | 10:00 a.m. | Iosco County                           |
| September 9, 2016                                                                     | Full Council | 10:00 a.m. | Isabella County                        |
| November 4, 2016                                                                      | Full Council | 10:00 a.m. | Tuscola County/Caro                    |

All Council meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude by 11:30. RED team follows at 11:45. There will be a short lunch break between meetings.

***NOTE: Members of the public are always welcome at any EMCOG Council meeting.***