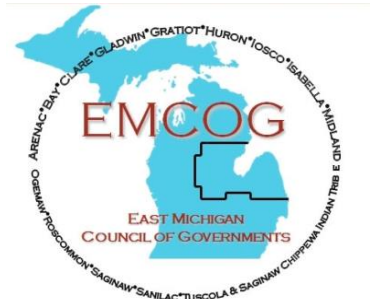


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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EMCOG FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, May 6, 2016

Riverwalk Place

777 West Cedar, Gladwin, MI 48624

989-246-8000

Minutes

PRESIDING: Robert Moffit, Chairperson

The Chair welcomed all to Gladwin and each guest introduced themselves along with who they represent. A quorum was present. The Chair also introduced today's speaker Lee Shirey, Michigan EDR for USDOC/EDA.

Approval of Revised Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Methner to accept and file the March 4, 2016 minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

No one wish to be heard.

Program Updates

Chairman's Report:

The Chair reported he had attended the Rural Council Conference in Crystal Mountain and that it was a great conference. He encouraged Council members that if they had not attended in the past, they should plan to attend in the future. Also, MEDA has training coming up June 9th on its Tool Box. They will also have very good training in August so, you can go to www.meda.org for additional information or see me after the meeting.

Director's Report

A written report was prepared and sent prior to the meeting. Additionally, if you are interested in Local Rural Safety Issues, Council members are encouraged to attend the meeting MDOT will be having on the 25th at the Bay City TSC Office. It's a combined Transportation and Local Rural Safety

Summit. This is a state wide effort even though they are working on it incrementally through each region. There will be time for public input to a number of upcoming transportation projects.

Financial Report – presented by Z. Dworzecki

Motion by C/O'Farrell, seconded by C/Aultman to accept and file the treasurer's report. Motion carried

Staff Reports

Transportation Programs – David Engelhardt

Dave reported that primarily EMCOG manages and facilitates the process for MDOT's Rural Task Program and the federal Fast Act, which provides some additional funding. We are working with MDOT and local agency programs to make sure we are utilizing all the new funding, as well as adjusting some of the projects moving forward. We are on track and doing well. For the small urban areas, there was a call on projects 2018 and 2020. There are six (6) small urban areas within the EMCOG Region. The deadline was April 30th to get those projects in and we are happy to report they were all sent in on time.

There has also been an effort for a Regional Transit Coordinated Plan. KFH Consultants is under contract to the State to compile regional Transit reports throughout the State. EMCOG staff have commented several times on the draft report. We have not seen the final draft but it is believed to be forthcoming. We do not anticipate much change. Probably the biggest thing out of that plan is that there needs to be better coordination efforts amongst the Counties, because each county currently deals with their transit related issues on their own through their county transit agency. There are considerable efforts ongoing in the area of non-emergency medical transportation. There are grant programs trying to solve that, for better coordination.

We anticipate that EMCOG's role, probably in 2017 will be to apply for a bit of additional grant funding for both the urban and the rural side to try and facilitate an increased coordination effort.

The Rural Safety Plan is in progress – we intend to utilize the initial information from the consultant through MDOT's Rural Elected Officials meetings. The Department is holding a series of Transportation Summits for elected officials; one on June 25th in Bay City, one on June 31st in Mt. Pleasant. No date has been set for the Thumb meeting at this time.

Hazard Mitigation – Bill Ernat

The five (5) draft plans are done and have been sent to Michigan State Police for their review. Our required public hearings have been held. The 30-day comment period has begun on each one of them. Roscommon's 30-day comment period will be done next week. If you want to review any of these, they are available on our website on each counties website. The goal is that after the 30-day comment period, each plan will be sent to MSP and on to FEMA. Plans must be finished by September 30th.

Community Wildfire – Bill Ernat

We now have fire and fire related information from most townships as well as from the DNR. We also are trying to plot out different infrastructure items on a county map. That was to be done this week. We are also meeting next week to start on our risk assessments. Things are moving along with this project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION UPDATE – Lee Shirey, EDA – Chicago Region 5 - EDR

Mr. Shirey reported that EDA has lots of money and is trying to spend it. He also provided an overview of EDA programs. He noted that EDA is the only federal agency charged strictly with economic development; it is not a loan agency. Highlights:

- Public Works Assistance: Everything is a match. Whoever owns the infrastructure and the property where the infrastructure is going has to be the applicant (i.e., MDOT if it owns the ROW for a project).
- Economic Adjustment Assistance is the most flexible pot of money: natural disasters, economic distress, plant closures
- I6 Challenge: regional innovation strategies: they do fund rural areas
- Make it in America: this program may come back but Lee is not sure.
- Collaborative Regional Innovation: Economic resiliency - Competitive: Must be an eligible applicant.
- The Grand River is the only waterway designated as distressed in Michigan and therefore eligible for urban revitalization along the waterway.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

2016-2017 MDOT Work Program: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Myers to authorize submission of the 2016-2017 MDOT Transportation Planning Work Program with appropriate officer signatures to contract when offered. Motion carried.

2016-2017 MDOT Rural Task Force Management Work Program: Motion by C/Byard seconded by C/Dworzecki, to authorize submission of the 2016-2017 MDOT Rural Task Force Management Work Program with appropriate officer signatures to contract when offered. Motion carried.

2016-2017 Asset Management Work Program: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Myers to authorize submission of the 2016-2017 Asset Management Work Program with appropriate officer signatures to contract when offered. Motion carried.

2016-2017 M-15 Heritage Route Byway: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/O'Farrell to authorize submission of the 2016-2017 M-15 Heritage Route Byway contract with appropriate officer signatures to contract when offered. Motion carried.

2016-2017 Iron Belle Trail: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Myers to authorize submission of the 2017 Work Plan to MDNR for Iron Belle Trail funding if offered and to authorize appropriate officer signatures to sign a contract if offered. Motion carried.

MICHIGAN FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW

Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Methner to approve project reviews for member projects thus authorizing their submission to the applicants for granting agencies and to acknowledge and assign numbers for the non-member applications. Motion carried.

ECM PR-5 Strategic Management Team Update – Jane Fitzpatrick

We have started the main project for this year - the Talent Assessment. We have contracted with Saginaw Valley State University and have put together a steering committee. We will be utilizing a research assistant in order to see what additional data gathering shows and then re-define it from there. We anticipate that this work will be something of a prequel to work which may be done on a state-wide basis.

Jane also reported on a recent study that is just out called Reaching for Opportunity which is about post-secondary educational attainment. Having this data will give us a kind of head start as we move forward on studying access to post-secondary education.

Any Other Business

Announcement:

Next scheduled meeting is July 8, 2016 – in Iosco County at the RESA facility.

Letters of Support: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Methner to authorize the Chairperson to sign any general project Letters of Support requested from a member unit. Motion carried.

Motion by C/Methner, seconded by C/Dworzecki to authorize the Chairperson to represent EMCOG on the MAR Policy Board for 2016-2017. Motion carried.

Commissioner reports and/or updates

Wanda Dziwurka, USDA Rural: USDA has money too, interest rates are at 2.25% for 40 years for water and sewer (loans).

Bob Moffit: The City applied for State DNR Trust Fund grant; DNR is now conveying 80 acres for the trail half way between Gladwin and Beaverton; also 240 acres of state land to allow for hunting and fishing and allowing for the extension of the trail along the river.

Mandi Chasey: Michigan Works will be hosting a Landlord and Renters Rights workshop on May 17th. The NE Manufacturers Association is being resurrected. Region 7B won their appeal. Working on a cyber security workshop on May 19th

Jay O'Farrell: Reported that he sits on the Michigan Works Region 7B Board and is very happy that Region 7B won the appeal.

Gary Stefanko: a free fishing weekend is coming up the Saturday after Memorial Day. Also hazardous materials recycling events are coming up; the RPI-3 Collaborative Board is working on an educational prevention program for substance abuse.

Kasey Zehner: introduced Jim Wheeler as VP of Greater Gratiot Dev. Corporation. Jim will become the president in 2017 when Don Schurr retires. GGDC is exploring concepts for agricultural industrial parks; an indoor farmers market in Alma, and update of the Gratiot County master plan.

Rosalie Myers: The Village of Roscommon empty building tour is scheduled for June 25th; The EDC is looking at an incubator coming into the Old Village Hall; the Booster Business Program is in its 3rd year; there was a nice article in Connected Michigan.

Tracy Byard: having the grand opening 5/15 for the new Veterans Park. Clare County took out a \$1.5 million bond to pay for a new courthouse and jail roof, 911 AC units; new cages for the animal shelter; and also secured a Petco grant for \$15K for the animal shelter.

Kathy Methner: Received a \$300K MDOT grant to pave Waldo Road to benefit Bandit industries.

Brian Smith: in conjunction with the planned hotel expansion in Arenac County: Worth road relocation; also looking at diversifying business holdings in Isabella County.

Russ Underwood: The Township now has an interim manager; also will soon be interviewing five (5) candidates for a permanent full time manager.

Sandy Aultman: Gladwin County is in the midst of the 30-day review of their proposed Hazardous Mitigation Plan; other projects include security improvements at the courthouse. Noted that there will be roadwork on M-30 north of Knoxville beginning on July 5th. Interviewing for an Equalization Director is starting. Budget work is also beginning.

Brenda Bachelder: the EDC's strategic planning process will be starting up at the beginning of June. Starting to also send out surveys for Connect Michigan for our broadband. The First Impressions workshop for the City of Standish just finished up.

Zygy Dworzecki:

They are moving ahead with their Farmers Market. Working with Finley Beans to secure organic beans. We have the contract for one year as well as a lot and building for \$1. The search for vendors is on-going and is being led by Hal Hudson, there is also a Market Manager and letters have been sent to about 100 vendors.

Steve Erickson: They are finishing up their first Incubator Kitchen and are hoping it will be up and running by August. The Small Business Center in Caro has a couple of new clients making a total of 14 businesses in there now. This is making a big difference in the downtown because the businesses are moving into the city.

Adam Kroczaleski: provided a brief overview of the City of Au Gres Sea Grant project and charrette. He noted that it looks completely different now as you drive through Au Gres. They are also trying to acquire the harbor.

Any Additional Comments

Wanda Dziwurka USDA

USDA now has very low interest rates – our program underwriting is structured for affordability, so we do have funds available. We can also do storm sewer too, if you have flooding or sanitary issues.

Brenda - MEDC

MEDC is trying to support the export activities within Region 5, there are some updated workshops coming up on-line the 18th of May; the department of Ag and Rural Development is having a webinar dealing with currency implications in doing export. On Thursday, September 22nd there is going to be The Legal Essentials of Exporting which will be held in Mt. Pleasant. Pure Michigan Business Connect activity, on July 27th we are having a buyers summit in Lansing.

Adjournment 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne