

Financial Report

C/Dworzecki reviewed the Financial report for the Council. Motion By C/Byard, seconded by C/Myers to accept and file the financial report. Motion carried.

Director's Report

The Director reported that she had spent most of February recovering from an unexpected cataract surgery. Program work consisted of general administration and completion of the City of Gladwin additional materials request for the EDA project.

STAFF Reports

Transportation programs – Dave Engelhardt

Dave provided the following MDOT program updates:

Rural Task Force Program:

- The program is progressing well
- MDOT has changed their data base structure and the Department is currently working to correct any data migration issues.
- MDOT Rural Task Force Coordinator, Darrell Harden has left that position which has created a vacancy.
- **Small Urban:** In process. There are a couple of projects that are also trying to move forward particularly in Clare. The road commission is working on alternate applications for funding in fiscal year 2017.
- **Transit:** The Phase III follow-up status report will be prepared and submitted to MDOT hopefully by March 31, 2017.
- MDOT Bay Region office has approached EMCOG as to updating the MDOT **Bay Region Non-Motorized Plan** as well as the bike maps. We are in the process of researching cost factors in order to respond.
- **M-15 HR/Byways:** Funding was received to complete and enhance the M-15 website. If you're in that jurisdiction or area and you have any photo's or any information that you would like to have on that web-site please let Dave know.
- **GRACE program:** There are currently three (3) GRACE Program (GIS Resources and Applications for Career Education program) teams out of Eastern Michigan working in the State. A visit was made to the Bay City School District this past Monday and there will probably be a follow up session this summer. This is potentially a significant opportunity for students in our 14 counties however, it has been difficult to establish a presence in the area. If there are any teachers or other contacts out there that might have an interest, let Dave know so we can be of assistance.

There was discussion.

Special Projects Reports:

Bill Ernat reported that:

- Finalization of all 5 counties through the Roscommon County Hazard Mitigation contract continues. The remaining work is centered on ensuring that the local units have passed Resolutions of concurrence. This secures eligibility for pre-disaster funding from FEMA.

We are doing better than 50% in three of the five counties - 50% in Iosco and we are just getting started in Isabella.

- Sanilac County's grant application was approved and the grant agreement has been signed. Work will begin soon.
- Gratiot County's application is being considered. Hopefully within the next few months or so a contract should be ready with MSP, after which we should have a contract for them.
- Work continues the **Iron Belle Trail** in Arenac, Bay, Saginaw and Tuscola. Five (5) grant applications were submitted for the four (4) counties. Three (3) grants were approved; one for Arenac, Saginaw and the other in Tuscola with the Southern Links Trail-way. Arenac received \$25,000 for an engineering study between Omer and AuGres; \$21,000 for Saginaw Wickes Park area and \$10,000 for signage in Tuscola. Staff has met with several people on this activity with Dave Engelhardt arranging many meetings. We believe we have hit everyone in all four counties that are along the trail.
- Negotiations have also begun with the Saginaw-Midland Municipal Water Surface Corporation for property in Arenac. Currently a search is on for alternate funding for construction including looking at MDNR Trust-fund Applications.
- Bill will be attending the Tribes 2% meeting today to learn more about this funding source. We will also be looking for TAP funds. Bill will be attending a meeting in Arenac County on Monday to do a presentation on that. There was discussion.

Dave Engelhardt added that today is the deadline for local municipalities to apply for PASER rating reimbursements requests. The rate is \$11.65 per mile.

ECM PR-5 Update

Jane Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the RPI project to date. Highlights included:

- EMCOG received \$180,897 in funding for 2017.
- We remain a Tier I Collaborative.
- It appears that all Tier I's were funded at a \$180,897 level. Tier II's received an estimated \$271,000 in funding with Northwest Michigan "Networks Northwest" - the only RPI Tier III - receiving approximately \$400,000.
- We are very pleased with our funding level this year. We had to submit a revised budget which included a couple of small reductions in our outreach programs where we leveraged our time in other initiatives. The largest reduction was in our mini-grant program. We had originally requested \$160,000 to re-grant through a mini-grant program throughout the region but this was reduced to \$100,000.
- We have formed a sub-committee of our collaborative and we will be working for the next month (4 to 6 weeks) to put together the grant package and the criteria. Once this is approved by our collaborative, we can hopefully solicit for grant applications by the end of April.
- Citizens Research Council does a series of webinars on Fiscal Government Policy. Jane participated in their webinar on the Governors recommendation for fiscal year 2018 for education and presented a summary. Updates will be provided on forthcoming information.

Kirtland Community College – Dr. Tom Quinn

Mandi Chasey introduced Dr. Quinn, President, Kirtland Community College. Dr. Quinn shared a very interesting and thorough presentation on their recent student housing study. He noted that the TMA done for PR-6 that included Roscommon County did not address their issues and therefore they commissioned their own study. The results support the contention that housing is a critical issue for Kirtland Community College. There was lengthy discussion.

Ogemaw County EDC update:

Mandi also provided an update on current activities in Ogemaw County including their frustrations regarding the Façade program. An informative slide presentation was made on the seven properties in West Branch that are involved in this program. She reported that they have had little success with the project and are very frustrated with the lack of progress in working with the State.

General Input Discussion – Deferred to next meeting.

MICHIGAN FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW

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

Council Member Reports

Brian Smith, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe: Brian provided a brief update on the Hops Feasibility Initiative. The selected vendor began the study in January. They will report back to the PR-5 SMT Centers of Excellence steering committee as the analysis proceeds. The project will be completed by July. Brian will make an inquiry in about a month re: initial meeting/conference call with steering committee.

Bob Moffit stated that he is about 90% certain the Lee Shirey, from EDA, will be at the Riverwalk for the May RED Team Meeting.

Moved by C/Mrdeza, seconded by C/Myers to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne