

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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East Michigan Council of Governments
Full Council Meeting - Friday, November 3, 2017
Roscommon Area District Library, 106 Lake Street
Roscommon, MI 48653

Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Moffit.

The Chair asked that we stand for the PLEDGE OF ALLIEGANCE.

The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Introduction of guests:

Bill Mrdeza introduced Lisa Hadden, CMU College of Medicine. Ms. Hadden oversees a program that identifies rural communities in which to place our third-year medical students that do 6-month rotations. C/Myers introduced Mr. Ed Bergeron, Chair of Roscommon County Community Development Board along with John Roczak, Roscommon Village Manager.

Public Comment Period

Rosalie Myers welcomed the Council to Roscommon County and the Roscommon Area District Library. Brochures from the Chamber were made available for attendees.

Mr. Roczak welcomed everyone to the village and provided an overview of economic development efforts currently underway within and on behalf of the Village. He noted that there are many opportunities out there for our local units of government if only we take advantage of them including the MEDC ICE grants.

Approval of September 8, 2017 Full Council Minutes

Moved by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Mrdeza, to approve the September 8, 2017 Full Council Minutes. Motion passed.

Reports

Chairman's Report:

The Chair reminded everyone of the MEDA Fall Tool Box upcoming workshop. He recommended that everyone attend that could do so.

He also reported that the Executive Committee had recently met to work with the Director on finalizing the 2017 amended budget. In addition, he reported that he had attended one of the Non-Motorized Plan and Bike Map update meetings held in Mt. Pleasant noting it was very good and accomplished some several community goals with MDOT at the table. Additionally, seeds were sown for the bike plan.

Appointment of a Nominating Committee Chair

Moved by C/O'Farrell, seconded by C/Myers to nominate Zygmunt Dworzecki as the chair for the Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

Director's Report

Director reported that she had undertaken the following activities:

- Prepared EDA quarterly progress and financial reports for June and September for the City of Gladwin and submitted those. They were accepted.
- Prepared the 6-month financial report for EMCOG for our Partnership Planning Grant.
- Prepared the EDA annual RLF Report and submitted it to EDA.
- Worked on the agendas well as participated in a staff meeting
- Prepared the Saginaw County Road Commission EDA proposal to reconstruct Dixie Highway from Junction to Airport Rd.

Other

- Legislation regarding auto insurance reform collapsed in the House last night.
- A reminder has been sent requesting letters of support for our 2018 RPI application.
- If you are a vendor to State Government, you must re-register on the State's new financial management system (SIGMA).

Treasurer's Report - Presented by Zygmunt Dworzecki

Motion by C/Methner, seconded by C/Byard to accept and file the Treasurers report. Motion passed.

Program Reports:

Transportation Initiatives including Non-Motorized Plan update

Highlights of Dave's report include:

Three out of 4 meetings have been held on the Non-Motorized plan update. The purpose has been to get updates on what trails have been developed since the last plan. Participation has been light but enough to get the new information with the individuals showing up being knowledgeable of the area. Next steps include ensuring we capture all the new updates and begin working on the plan itself. A final summit will be held in Frankenmuth which will give everyone a chance to review the plan before we start the MDOT approval process.

RTF and Transit

Transit – not a lot of time has been spent on it as the 3-phase Transit Mobility reports are complete.

STARTS is revamping their system with new routes. Trying to revamp how transit is approached in the urban area.

Special Projects (Hazard Mitigation/Iron Belle) – William Ernat

The report was distributed which detailed activities underway or complete. Of note, the one-year period for communities to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan in the five counties of Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Isabella and Roscommon Counties is over. Any communities that did not pass a resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan will now have to go through a very lengthy process - about 4 or 5 months to do it – which will include Public Hearings.

We were contacted by Beaverton and Grant Township in Iosco County to start the process. We did advise that we could help but have received no further follow-up from them.

Staff assisted Bay County in submitting a notice of intent to the Michigan State Police for a Hazard Mitigation grant to update their existing Plan. Assistance was also provided to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for their application to FEMA for a plan update.

Sanilac and Gratiot: Met with Sanilac last night. Attendance was light with 5 attending but we are progressing. We also met in Gratiot two weeks ago and they are also moving along well.

Iron Belle Trail is slow but steady. This will be a lengthy process before everything gets in place. There have been set-backs working with MDOT to get it done. On the back of the report distributed, a picture of a Kiosk sign we paid for through a grant for Southern Links Trail-way. Iron Belle Logo must be on all signs paid for by the Iron Belle program.

ECM PR-5 RPI update – Jane Fitzpatrick

We are preparing our grant application for the final year of funding in the amount of \$250,000. This application includes 2 priority areas identified by our strategic management team. One is continuing the mini-grant program re-granting program which funded projects City of Standish, City Park enhancements, the Ross trailhead in Beaverton to connect the non-motorized trail between Beaverton and Gladwin.

Another priority area is the continuation of our talent analysis. The next phase is going to be adding videos the MEDA collaborative looking at how to retain and attract talent to the region. The colleges and universities are going to be part of that target. Our part of it is to include a piece of that to update and enhance the university and community college data and support the MEDC project being done through the collaborative. Due December 1.

Meetings have also been attended regarding Early Childhood Development and Connecting the importance of quality daycare, early childhood development and the impacts of that through developing and creating our work force.

If the RED Team is interested or has thoughts on this topic, she would like to have them have that discussion.

MichiganWorks Region 7B asked her to do 3 additional county ALICE reports for Roscommon, Iosco and Ogemaw. They are distributed.

NEW OR Unfinished Business (All action items)

Approval of Executive Committee recommendations for Full Council approval:

2017 Amended Budget: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/Mrdeza to approve the 2017 Budget with revisions. Motion passed.

City of Gladwin EDA grant administration: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/O'Farrell to approve EMCOG to administer the City of Gladwin's Iron Removal Facility EDA Grant. Motion passed.

Bay County Hazard Mitigation Plan: Motion by C/Dworzecki, seconded by C/O'Farrell to approve staff assistance to Bay County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Motion passed.

Iron Belle Trail applications: Motion by C/Byard, seconded by C/Kroczaleski to approve staff preparation of grant applications for municipalities along the proposed Iron Bell Trail Route. Motion passed.

2018 Meeting Schedule (FC and RED Team)

- January meeting is in Saginaw
- March 2, 2018 in Mt. Pleasant
- May 4, 2018 at Gladwin Riverwalk
- July 13, 2018 in Iosco
- September 13, 2018 Arenac County – Saganing Eagles Lansing Conference Center
- November 2, 2018 – Open.

Motion by C/Byard, seconded by C/Dworzecki to approve the meeting schedule. Motion passed.

Other: Including Council reports and discussion

Bob Moffit: Regarding the Bike Path to Beaverton, the City received the deed for 100 acres transferred to city from DNR 33 of which goes to Gladwin County for the trail and park. This transfer is worth approximately \$400,000 in land transfer value. \$1.7 million was raised locally to support this project. He urged local units not to give up as there are ways to do this.

Jay O'Farrell. Extended his thanks to EMCOG for supporting the Whittemore bridge project and helping to put it on a fast track with MDOT. This saved over 100 jobs in the county. The project is currently under construction with Dec 5th being the estimated completion date. National Gypsum was close to shutting down, but they hung in there and the bridge is going in.

Bill Mrdeza: Blanchard Road and the June flood. The Road Commission continues to make repairs. Six (6) roads are still closed, maybe less. Blanchard Road is one of the last of the big ones needing repairs.

The City of Mt Pleasant continues to work on their zoning ordinance re-write. The final draft was considered at the planning commission meeting a couple of weeks ago. It was standing room only with 42 people spoke, 39 were from the development community who spoke against it. There are concerns regarding student housing neighborhoods. Nov 13th is the public hearing at the city council. The ordinance is online with a page dedicated to the process and the ordinance. On 10 West Broadway (adjacent to city hall) the city has a development

agreement with a company out of Lansing for a \$12.5 M mixed unit project: first floor commercial with covered parking and 91 units.

Adam Kroczaleski: Currently pulling players together regarding a new rail spur in the Standish industrial park; meeting with the Arenac EDC, City of Standish, Lake State Rail and some businesses in the industrial park. A sticking point is going to be moving the Arenac County Fairgrounds which is located there. Residents are having a problem with this idea.

City of AuGres: still working with DNR on finalizing the harbor of refuge transfer from State to city ownership, still working on finalizing it. They have received an MSU-SEA grant for a 3-day planning Charette to obtain community input. The City of AuGres has utilized their park very well; i.e., Halloween in the park, trees were decorated for Christmas sponsored by businesses. There is also a new Tractor Supply in Standish next to Arby's.

Erik Rodriguez: Saganing Eagle hotel construction is on schedule. There are drone shots on the website, www.sagchip.org. Estimated early 2019 opening date, early spring. \$26.5 million renovations expected at Soaring Eagle Casino.

Any Other Business

The Chair acknowledged retiring Commission Kathy Methner and expressed sincere appreciation of her service to her communities and EMCOG.

Zygmunt Dworzecki asked if there was anyone interested in the 2nd Vice Chair position (also RED Team Chair). C/Mrdeza stated he would accept the appointment. Approved voice vote. All yes.

Sue Fortune: Kathy has been such a help to us and we will miss her a great deal. Sincere thanks to Bill for agreeing to accept the appointment. Regarding the recent floods, she noted that she is on Chairman Schuster's Committee mailing list for Transportation (federal). He has convened a hearing to discuss the ramifications of hurricanes and extreme storm events on infrastructure. The bottom line is everyone is going to have to find a way to deal with this with better long term planning and cooperation.

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

Respectfully submitted.

Lynne