



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF THE NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING August 20, 2020

Video-conference: GoToMeeting

Call to Order

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Robert Heilman, President, at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members

Present: Dan Gauthier, Dave Karschnick, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, Daryl Peterson, Kyle Yoder, Danny Mitchell, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann, Scott McLennan, Dave Post, Kim Awrey and Mark Becmer

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Denise Cline

Public Present: Eric Keller

Presentation

Eric Keller, Northern MI Regional Director, Office of U.S. Senator Gary Peters

Eric Keller provided a brief overview of current events and issues the U.S. Senate is currently dealing with, including current bills, PPE, Unemployment, USPS and FEMA. Eric can be reached directly at Eric.Keller@peters.senate.gov, 818 Red Drive, Suite 40, Traverse City, MI 49684, Office (231) 947-7773 or cell (231)290-0889.

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting. C. Jansen moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

D. Rekowski reviewed the July 31, 2020 financial statements. S. McLennan moved, seconded by D. Peterson to receive and file the July 31, 2020 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried. C. Jansen asked if it was possible for K. Cole to provide a bar chart of the financials for the past 3 years, actual vs. budget or operating income. M. Moreau said her software should allow her to do that.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: R. Heilman stated there are (0) Federal Grant project for regional review; (0) other projects for regional review and (0) public notices.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): D. Rekowski updated the Board on MAR's recent meeting that included Bylaw updates, presentations from state agencies and partner's reports.

Director's Report

D. Rekowski stated that a full copy of her Director's Report would be emailed to the board following the meeting. She briefly reviewed her report with the board and provided an update on current and upcoming projects and staffing needs. She would also send the NEMCOG July report from Sara McCauley, NEMCOG Region, EDA COVID Response Coordinator, for the board to review.

Program Highlights for period of January through June 2020 was provided to the board. D. Rekowski briefly touched on a few items.

- Staff continues to work remotely and are in and out of the office as needed. It is expected that this will continue into the fall and will be evaluated after September.
- NEMCCAB records review was recently completed by MI Department of Corrections and staff Nicole Scott and was given a great report.
- The 2020 Wage and Salary Survey was completed by T. Huff and was sent to the board and will also be put on our website.
- EDA COVID Response Coordinator, Sara McCauley – July report will be sent to the board following the meeting. FY2021 Budget: Will have a Finance Committee within the next few weeks and discuss the budget at the next Board Meeting.

Denise Cline: Project Updates:

- MDOT Bike Maps – The project to Update the Nonmotorized Trail Bike Maps is ending in September. She is updating both NE and NW regions this year. Will be printing 30,000 of each region and will be sent out to the communities.
- Heritage Route 23: Creating a "Pure MI Byways" Magazine, it will be sent out for review next week. It highlights every community.
- US-23 Website: all of the maps and brochures can be found there. There has been a lot of interest and requests for them this year.
- M-33 Projects: M-33 Dark Skies Byways is being worked on by Erich Podjaske. Working together to promote the area. Website is done and working on adding assets.
- JLUS Implementation Project: RFP has been sent out to update the Grayling Interchange Transportation Stud. Other activities include Public Education and Outreach. .
- Currently working on 6 Zoning Ordinances and 3 Master Plans.

Committee Reports

RPI: No report.

Finance/Nominating Committee: Will be meeting prior to the next Board meeting.

Previous Business

None

New Business

FY2021 Draft Budget – was sent to the board to review. It will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at the next meeting.

Public Comment

None

County Updates

Alcona Co.: The Veteran's Millage passed at the recent primary election. Also, the EMS/Ambulance millage which includes equipment and building updates, was approved. Beginning to work on FY2021 budget.

Alpena Co.: Airport is up and running well.

Cheboygan Co.: The controversy with the Black Lake levels continue and, may need to go to court.

City of Alpena: The new jail is expected to open in January, 2021. The Ambulance/EMS millage passed. Working on Mich-e-ke-wis Park Plans.

City of Gaylord: Electrical vehicle charging stations agreements with Bagley Township. The old GP facility was annexed into the City.

Crawford Co.: County is back open and currently working on the budget.

MI Works!: Staff is working virtually. Have some appointments on a very limited basis and will continue this through September. Job Fairs are going to start later this month. Unemployment assistance is phasing out; they're too busy to continue assisting with that.

Montmorency Co. Most of the recent millages passed, Briley Park did not pass. There are some County positions including Treasurer and 3 Commissioners that will be vacant and have not had people running for the vacancies.

Oscoda Co.: The County finally settled with the insurance company over the building claim.

Presque Isle Co.: Completed the County Budget that begins July 1, 2020. County is back open for business now.

Region 7 Healthcare Coalition: Offering Isolation/quarantine classes in person at the University Center on Friday 9/18 and Saturday 9/19. Still have a few weeks to register for classes. ICS 402 Course was cancelled due to COVID. All classes and information can be found of their website and Facebook page.

Roger City: M. Heidemann was furloughed from the paper which went from 16 pages to 8. Discussed the unemployment process, which has been difficult. Developed a brochure/booklet on Presque Isle County CCC Camps to highlight sites in the county

Village of Hillman: Things are going well, have been very busy, have seen a lot of out of out of state plates. Village has been full. Getting bids on water tower. Working on paving projects. Getting worried about State Revenue Sharing cuts. Also concerned about Census; numbers are currently low.

Village of Mackinaw City: Dealing with Fireworks issues, sky lanterns have been banned. Town has been packed this summer.

D. Rekowski added that COVID funding was given to Connect MI to work with counties on Broadband expansion. Will see if Tom Stephenson can attend the next board meeting to provide an update and additional information.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. by R. Heilman. D. Rekowski asked for the board to consider moving the next meeting date back a week to allow K. Cole additional time for preparation of financials and budget. A motion was made by C. Jansen to have the next board meeting moved from September 17th to September 24th as requested, seconded by M. Heidemann. Yes all, motion passed. The next Board Meeting will be held on September 24, 2020.