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## Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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### MINUTES OF THE NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING October 15, 2020

#### Video-conference: Go-To-Meeting

#### 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: Dave Karschnick, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, Daryl Peterson, Rob Pallarito, Scott McLennan, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann, Mark Becmer, Doug Baum

Staff Present: Theresa Huff, Denise Cline and Karen Cole

Public Present: Eric Cline

#### Presentation

Eric Cline/MI Department of Treasury

Has been with the Treasury for 8 years and is a member of the Community Services Division. He works directly with Local Units of Governments across the state of Michigan, in somewhat of a consultant type position. He assists local governments that are having financial distress in an advisory not regulatory capacity. His purpose for his presence today is to let the region know he is out there because he wants to better coordinate with the regional agencies to identify struggling local governments earlier. He's been talking with different regions making it easier to identify which communities should be contacted, such as the Village of Hillman and their Power Plant closing situation. Diane, Denise and Theresa have his contact info. if anyone would like to contact him.

#### Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the September 24, 2020 meeting. S. McLennan moved, seconded by D. Baum to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

#### Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the September 30, 2020 financial statements. She noted that these are not the final September 30, 2020 financials due to other invoices still coming in for FY20. NEMCOG had a tremendous and successful year. D. Baum moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to receive and file the September 30, 2020 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried. J. Wallace thanked K. Cole for her hard working getting the financials back in shape.

## **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):** No report.

## **Director's Report**

D. Cline attended in Diane's absence.

- A new bill is pending approval regarding the Open Meetings Act, see below:  
"Senate Bill 1108 would amend the Open Meetings Act to allow meetings of a public body to be held electronically or with remote participation under certain circumstances and to provide procedures and requirements for a meeting held that way."  
T. Huff will forward official executive order once it has been approved.
- New Bike Maps are going out as we speak.
- C. McEmber worked to finish three (3) projects that S. Schnell hadn't finished when he left. She quickly finished the final draft of the Alpena County/Green Township/Wilson Township/Ossineke Township Master Plan and the Frederic Township Master Plan. She and D. Cline have also finished the City of Alpena Comprehensive Plan.
- A Transportation Plan is being done in the Grayling Area as part of the JLUS Implementation Project.
- COVID resources can be found on our website as part of the COVID grant.

## **Committee Reports**

RPI: Meeting October, 28, 2020.

Finance Committee: No report.

## **Previous Business**

None

## **New Business**

None

## **Public Comment**

None

## **County Updates**

Cheboygan Co.: Reactivated the EDC. Tom Stephenson and Sharon Long are working with Broadband services.

City of Grayling: Reminder, MI OSHA Local Units of Governments are not exempted for violations for not following COVID guidelines.

MI Works!: Still open and working, however closed to the public. Starting town hall type meetings via internet. People can call in with questions or get assistance.

Montmorency Co. The County has begun negotiations. Hillman Power Plant, thinking maybe it'll become a solar plant or something like that. This is D. Peterson's last NEMCOG Board Meeting. PIEG's \$22 million Headquarters is going up next year.

Otsego Co.: Some construction projects are finishing up. Hilton is going in by Bigsby Coffee. Another hotel going in on Wisconsin Street. Discount Tire is coming in by Meijer. Menards delayed until Spring due to COVID. Road Construction going on the south end of county. Internet work as well. JLUS Meeting – Transportation study in Crawford County and South End of Otsego County.

Region 7 Health Coalition: Works with hospitals, long term care facilities, EMS, etc. There is some pending legislation to open visitation at long term care facilities and nursing homes. Have been working to procure PPE to go out to Health Care facilities. There is a concern regarding living facilities on outbreaks resulting with having to move patients to long term COVID hubs. Also have been communicating with Health Departments to give updates. Planning for annual full scale exercise. Met with partners and discussed potential scenarios and objectives or things that they haven't touched on in a while. Tracking positive cases in the region hospitals/hospitalizations.

Rogers City - M. Heidemann: Last day on CENSUS field work. Both M. Heidemann and her husband were enumerators. They haven't had much work the last 3 weeks. Encountered a lot of resistance from the residents; having trust issues and lack of trust with the Government. Harbor-State Park is crazy with business this summer. It's the second week of October and they are 100% full.

Rogers City- S. McLennan: Traffic at the Marina was up 30% this summer. Brook is opening in mid-November. Open Master Plan; will be done by the first of the year. D. Cline has been great. Thanked D. Peterson for his years of service.

Village of Mackinaw City: Not much going on. Local repair shop is closing.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. by R. Heilman. The next meeting will be December 17, 2020.