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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 17, 2019**

**University Center  
Gaylord, MI**

**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, Daryl Peterson, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann, Scott McLennan, Doug Baum, Dave Post and Norm Brecheisen

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff, Karen Cole and Steve Schnell

Public Present: None

**Approval of Minutes**

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting. J. Wallace moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

K. Cole reviewed the September, 2019 financial statements. M. Heidemann moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to receive and file the September, 2019 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried. K. Cole stated the financial statements are a snap-shot as of now since the year-end closing is still being completed. The year-end work is going well and should end well.

**Special Presentation:** Dave Emmel, Northeast MI Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provided an overview of what services SBDC provides to small businesses and start-ups in the region and how the organization is funded. SBDC has 4 Teams: Small Business Team (this is the team includes D. Emmel), Business Growth Team, Export Assistance Team and the Technology Commercialization Team. SBDC works collaboratively with the economic development organizations throughout the region and is integrally involved with the Regional Prosperity Initiative and the Collaborative Development Council. D. Emmel also informed the Board that Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw is the new regional host of NE MI's SBDC. It is expected that this partnership will bring new opportunities for NE MI.

## **President's Report**

**Regional Project Review:** R. Heilman stated there were (0) Federal Grant project for regional review; (0) Other projects for regional review and (1) public notices.

**MI Association of Regions (MAR):** None

**Other:** D. Rekowski informed the board that former NEMCOG employee, Dave Glenn had passed away unexpectedly.

## **Director's Report**

S. Schnell gave an update on the 2020 CENSUS. He provided a few handouts and said he can assist groups and boards with getting the word out and providing info.

D. Rekowski informed the Board that they have been very busy with year-end closing and new FY programs. Provided a brief summary of the following:

- The Regional Prosperity Initiative is likely not going to be funded. If there is funding the program will be focused on Integrated Asset Management.
- MDOT 2020 Project Authorizations have been signed.
  - Community Corrections recommended approval for NEMCCAB's with an increased budget from 2019.
  - Regional Events: Held the Regional Materials Market Development Workshop which was well attended. Partnered with the Bridge magazine to host a Community Conversation on Drinking Water.
  - Integrated Asset Management – Denise and Nico attended day and ½ training. NEMCOG is hosting an Asset Management Workshop for communities on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - JLUS: Implementation grant was allowed to be submitted to the Office of Economic Adjustment.
- Business and Talent Attraction Videos being developed for each county by Aaron Peterson Videos from the U.P. should be completed by the end of December.
- Informed the Board that NEMCOG received a regional e-Waste grant to purchase enclosed storage units for Electronics. a meeting is being organized for December 4<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta at the Courthouse: 11-1pm to discuss grant logistics.
- Hazard Mitigation Plans are being updated and will need to have the local match.

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:** None

**RPI Committee:** S. Schnell informed the Board of one of the projects being funded through the RPI Collaborative and MEDC: Alcona County's FFA program that teaches entrepreneurship through farming. The Region 3: RPI Collaborative will continue to meet even though the RPI program at the State level is no longer funded.

### **Previous Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **County Updates**

Alcona Co.: The EDC revitalization is making progress and are meeting next Wednesday. Have a couple of new broadband providers in the county. Working on budget.

Alpena Co.: The new Jail construction is underway and moving forward. The Airport Grand Opening will be held in late January 2020. Working on budget, have MERS/pensions issues to work out.

Cheboygan Co.: Cheboygan and Presque Isle are involved in a lawsuit regarding Black Lake levels. Cheboygan County passed a resolution in support of the Line 5 tunnel.

City of Alpena: Hired new City Manager, Rachael Smolinski. Working on MEDC Grants and Master Plan with NEMCOG.

City of Grayling: Updated the Board on the many projects happening in Grayling: Finalizing Parks and Recreation Plan; Road contract claim is ongoing; \$1 million EGLE Brownfield Grant; Neighborhood zone; Holding a public hearing regarding curbside recycling; POAM contract; completed Fire contract with Air Base; meeting regarding Blight Ordinance and Cost sharing with Crawford County Sheriff for officer.

Livingston Township: Small 40 acre parcel timber cut will bring in approximately \$32,000 of revenue to the Township.

Montmorency County: CENSUS!! It's very important. Elected officials presented department figures. Looking for ways to consolidate departments due to budget constraints. Union negotiations have been temporarily delayed.

Otsego Co.: In the second week of budget deliberations. Working with SANE to get 1 officer. Gaylord recently did this as well. Working on budget and discussed impacts of state cuts.

Presque Isle Co.: Working to secure Court house security. Have one lawsuit pending. Budget was completed in July.

Rogers City: Pension liability issue is being put to rest. Huron Pines assisting on project to cleanup storm water system. NEMI Community Foundation can assist with funding for such projects. RRC certification close to wrapping up. Main Street Program in Rogers City set to begin. MEDC funding has been cut so funding will be limited.

Village of Hillman: Working on mid-term budget. 70/30 RRC Grant with MEDC. Recently read an article in the Detroit Free Press stating that the Northern Lower Michigan is an “Education Desert”, recommended reading it.

Village of Mackinaw City: 1 MERS issue but was caused by a staff error and has been corrected. It’s been quiet but it is still tourist season. Island should be packed today with a Christian Women’s Group.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the University Center in Gaylord.

**REMINDER: There will NOT be a meeting in November.**