

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
October 19, 2017  
UNIVERSITY CENTER  
GAYLORD, MI**

**Call to Order**

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

A quorum was declared.

**Roll Call**

Governing Board

Members Present: Kathleen Vichunas, Cameron Habermehl, John Wallace, Rick Anderson, Daryl Peterson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Mary Ann Heidemann, Doug Baum, Dave Post, Bill Wishart and Norm Brecheisen.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

**Approval of Minutes**

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the September 21, 2017 meeting. C. Habermehl moved, seconded by Rob Pallarito to approve the minutes as presented, seconded Ayes all, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

K. Cole reviewed the September, 2017 financial statements. D. Baum moved, supported by B. Wojcik to receive and file the September 30, 2017 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

**President's Report**

*Regional Project Review:* President R. Heilman presented (0) Federal Grant projects for regional review from previous month. There were (0) Public Notices and (0) "Other" (0) State Grant Applications.

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

**Director's Report:**

**Administration:**

- A. Accounting System: D. Rekowski reported on the merger of the Accounting System with NE Consortium/MI Works!.
- B. New staff recently hired: Community Economic Development Senior Planner: Steve Schnell. Nicole Palmer, Community Corrections Program Manager. 2 part-time contract positions, Dar McKinley and Gail Atkins.

**New Projects/Programs:** D. Rekowski updated the Board on the following new programs:

- A. Community Corrections: the FY 2018 contract combined Sunrise Side CCAB and the Northern MI CCAB into one, the Northeast MI Community Corrections Advisory Board (NEMCCAB). The combined Board met on October 13.
- B. Iron Belle Trail: New grant is starting up. Steve Schnell will be the staff person for this project.
- C. MDOT: Received a bit more funds and should cover all program costs.
- D. Presque Isle County Parcel Mapping: entered into a contract with Presque Isle County for parcel mapping. Nico Tucker will complete this project.

E. Regional Entrepreneurial Initiative: Received funding from MEDC to initiate a regional Entrepreneurial program for northeast MI.

**Working on:**

- A. Hazard Mitigation: submitted Application
- B. Completed Scrap Tire Grants for Alpena and Crawford Counties
- C. 2018 Regional Prosperity Initiative Application

**Projects:**

- A. JLUS Public Meetings were held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- B. MEDC Year End Report:
  - 1. Hot Jobs – videos/materials
  - 2. Regional Local Foods Project
- C. MEDC Site Selector Workshop on Mack Island representing Region 3. Governor was in attendance on Thursday.
- D. MAP- East of Expected session
- E. RPI - Assisting State Governors' office with Statewide RPI meeting to be held November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Reports**

*Finance Committee:* None.

*RPI Collaborative:* D. Baum, Chair of the RPI Collaborative stated there will be a meeting on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Arauco attended last month's meeting and gave a nice presentation. Housing is an issue for Emmet, Otsego and Crawford Counties. City of Grayling is working with MSHDA. Missing middle is now the new title. Hope to bring new options to the table. Hoping to be able to modify existing programs. People will be traveling from surrounding areas to these new jobs. May see if Arauco can attend a future board meeting.

**Previous Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

**County Updates:**

**Alcona Co.:** In negotiations, health insurance concerns with cost. May have employees pay a bit more and make some adjustments to the deductibles.

**Briley Township/Atlanta:** The permit was granted by the state to move the dock. Began a sidewalk planning project that is moving along. Atlanta has had a skating rink on and off for many years and had skates for rent. Continued having issues with weather, etc. Recently it was voted to sell the skate inventory to Alpena to use at their indoor skating rink.

**City of Grayling:** Reported on the need for childcare/daycare in area and possibility of integrating into a community recreation project. City just approved the purchase of a 6.3 acre site for the community recreation project. Bikes that have been accumulated over time have now been donated to the Hartwick Pines as a bike-share program for visiting campers. Water contamination has been detected around the airport and the area of contamination has been expanded.

**Crawford Co.:** The budget has been approved. There are 2 new officers on board. Sent a resolution to MDOT to not change the speed limit on M-72. Discussed Military Joint Venture project that is experiencing tree removal issues and could impact funding if not resolved. The County's Childcare fund has issues, very costly, continuing to be very expensive. More jobs bring more people who bring more issues and create major issues for service providers.

**Village of Hillman:** Looking for a new spot to drill a new water well. Also experiencing airport tree issue. Finishing up on the SAW Grant and Asset Management Plan. Reported that the Wi-Fi in Emerick Park is 30-50 MB. They also offer full hookups that include heated bathroom floors!

**Montmorency Co.:** Thunder Bay Transportation - \$5.5 facility seems to be working good. Insurance: Retirees have full health Insurance and they will have to share the cost similar to what the employees pay. Meeting on 11/7 to discuss 911 surcharges. If approved, it will provide \$130,000 more a year. BSA software – everyone will be using it come March. Minor repairs/improvements are being done at the courthouse and in the jail.

**City of Alpena:** Informed the Board that the City Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk are both retiring. Will have a new person trained by the time the Clerk/Treasurer is gone.

**Presque Isle Co.:** The Register of Deeds passed away unexpectedly. The 911 \$100 million project with Motorola now has the equipment installed.

**City of Gaylord:** Currently involved with the Audit. The City Council has indefinitely set aside the Medical Marijuana ordinance. Streets project they hoped to finish up this fall has been set aside until spring due to the lack of bids. Will try again for more bidders.

**Otsego Co.:** Started Budget Planning for 2018. Land Use: permit deductions. Fund Balance is on the high side, looking to make recommendations.

**Cheboygan Co.:** Steve Schnell is leaving as announced previously, he's going to NEMCOG. Additionally, the Primary Planner is leaving in February as well. This will leave a huge void and will be restructuring. Will look for a Planning Person to fill the vacancy. Transit area – looking for driver apprenticeships. Experiencing some Code Enforcement Officer issues. Currently working on the budget process.

**Oscoda Co.:** New Building – signing agreement with insurance company. EMS concerns, and there is a millage increase request to cover costs. Feels the public is not listening as there is not a hospital in the county so the EMS is used a lot. Veterans Dept. received a \$2,000 technology grant.

**Cheboygan Co.:** Humane Society's building renovations are approximately \$750,000, completing Phase 3.

**MI Works!:** Updated the Board on Manufacturing Day and staff turn overs at MI Works!. Discussed Otsego County's newly established Employer Resource Network (ERN) which assists with staff retention.

**M. Heidemann:** County is losing the Zoning staff due to retirement. Noted a new billboard that stated Welding is my super power, what is yours. Thought it was great. Tree removal issues as well.

**Mackinaw City:** Informed the Board there was a DNR Trust Fund Board meeting and a Waterways Commission meeting in Mackinaw City. Ice Breaker received a Grant for \$300,000 to be repainted. A medical marijuana meeting is being held. SAW grant is done. There will be a major increase in water rates (approximately 70%) due to findings of the SAW project. Enacted a short term rental policy – short term rental housing inspections to be done before they can rent out along with having a sign posted outside of each building who/where/what's allowed, etc. US-23 Heritage Route Discovery Tour, offered Hot cider and donut holes. Gave away a lot of folders with info. Zoning Ordinance meeting today, it's the final one. Denise Cline has done a great job. Very pleased.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m. The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2017, lunch will be provided.