



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

**MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

January 16, 2020

**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, Carey Jansens, Kyle Yoder, Robert Pallarito, Hank Mason, Carl Altman, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann, Scott McLennan, Dave Post and Norm Brecheisen

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

Public Present: Mark Becmer and Amanda Reed

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the December 19, 2019 meeting. C. Altman moved, seconded by S. McLennan to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

D. Rekowski and K. Cole reviewed the December, 2019 financial statements. C. Jansens moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to receive and file the December, 2019 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

K. Cole stated that the FY19 Audit is nearly done, should have a draft copy by the end of the week. Hope to have Auditors present it at next month's board meeting.

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. M. Heidemann and J. Wallace provided additional details on the Alverno Hydroelectric Dam on the Black River.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): R. Heilman stated MAR met and was presented the final Strategic Plan. D. Rekowski said they'll be moving forward with implementation of the plan and have established 3 committees: Policy, Education/ Training and Programming.

Director's Report

D. Rekowski introduced Mark Becmer, Regional Coordinator and Amanda Reed, Assistant Regional Coordinator from the Region 7 Healthcare Coalition. M. Becmer provided an overview of what they do and the services they provide within their region. M. Becmer shared his interest in joining the NEMCOG Board.

FY19 Audit is nearly done and will meet with the Finance Committee for review of audit.

EDA Peer Review: Lee Shirey will be coming on January 30th to conduct a peer review. D. Baum, Lisa McComb and R. Heilman will also participate in the review.

Federal Grant Forum: The date changed to March 4th at ACC from 1-3 p.m. The USDA, EDA and SBA will be in attendance.

Projects

Regional Local Food Supply Chain Analysis Project: Will be executing a RFP for a Consultant to conduct the Local Foods supply chain analysis

Economic Development Assistance: Providing technical assistance to a developer looking to start-up a Hemp Seed Research and Development company in the old school in Atlanta.

S. Schnell shared a sample of the MEDC TalentBiz Attraction Videos. Once finalized, T. Huff will send out a link to the board. Members are encouraged to share with their local businesses and organizations. There will also be one three minute video of the region.

Grants

Informed the Board of the following Grant Opportunities: Recycling Quality Improvement Grant Proposal; EGLE: Infrastructure Grant for Recycling to be released soon and the Infrastructure/Resiliency Grant.

JLUS Implementation grant is proceeding. Changes may be made to include assistance for the bathymetric survey of Lake Huron. This was a priority recommendation within the JLUS plan.

Three-year EDA Planning Grant: Grant was completed by S. Schnell and D. Rekowski and will be submitted today.

Other

MI Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration: D. Rekowski provided a hand-out of the Task Force findings on why population in Jails in MI have tripled in a relatively short time period.

Committee Reports

None

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

County Updates

Alcona Co.: Harrisville Harbor has been impacted by high water levels. Water is over the wall and has damaged the docks.

Alpena Co.: Airport grand opening will be March 3, 2020. Had a delay and need to make a few modifications before opening. Jail construction is proceeding. There were 4 individuals applying for to fill Judge Mack's seat. High water levels have impacted the City. There has been damage to the beach and some streets are closed because of water levels.

Crawford Co.: Updated on winter events happening in the county.

Cheboygan Co.: No report.

Livingston Township: Fives lakes area, have a road closed due to high water levels.

MI Works!: Working with Senators to get funds to be put back in budget for important Talent programs. MI Career Fest is coming up on May 21st at the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway. It is expected it to be bigger than last year. Volunteers are still needed, must pre-register.

Oscoda Co.: Park Manager retired after 31 years and has hired his replacement. Will finally be moving furniture into the new county building this month but are still waiting for the doors so cannot move in. A new Citizens Group (for 2nd Amendment protection) is pressing to adopt a resolution to agree to uphold the Constitution. This is no change to what is currently in place.

Otsego Co.: Lucky's Steakhouse to open in February. Menards is scheduled to break ground this spring and projected opening date is spring of 2021. 3 new hotels are coming in. Looking for \$1.95 mills (20 year bond) for new Corrections Facility.

Presque Isle Co.: No report.

Rogers City: M. Heidemann resigned as the County Drain Commissioner, now works for the Media. Informed the Board that the inspections she was completing for EPA on Class V Wells in the region are complete. The 2020 Black Lake Sturgeon Festival begins Feb. 1. Rogers City also dealing with high water levels causing road erosion. Hoping to get some State of Emergency funds to properly repair the damage. The Brook assisted living facility is coming soon.

Village of Hillman: No report.

Village of Mackinaw City: Marijuana shop coming in. Had the first ever flood warning, and storm never happened.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the University Center in Gaylord.