

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
January 18, 2018  
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 Board President Robert Heilman at 10:01 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

**Roll Call**

Governing Board

Members Present: Craig Johnson, Cameron Habermehl, John Wallace, Rick Anderson, Jonathan Scheel, Daryl Peterson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann and Norm Brecheisen.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

**Approval of Minutes**

R. Heilman presented the minutes of the December 21, 2017 meeting. An omission from the minutes was noted regarding the voting of the Region 3: Regional Prosperity Collaborative Resolution. C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Baum to approve the minutes as amended. All ayes, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

K. Cole reviewed the December, 2017 financial statements. J. Scheel moved, supported by C. Altman to receive and file the December 31, 2017 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

**Special Presentation**

Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report for NE MI. Keith Moore, Executive Director, United Way of Otsego County.

Keith Moore presented data and information from the ALICE report, "Working Poor" developed by the United Way. The report indicates that the Region is the poorest region in the State of Michigan. Many of the "employed" in the region make far less than the \$28/hr rate just to make ends meet. United Way helps to network individuals to appropriate resources and importantly assist in employment.

**President's Report**

*Regional Project Review:* R. Heilman stated there were (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):* R. Heilman reported that MDOT was funded \$3 million for a statewide culvert inventory that will completed during Paser Road Ratings.

Also reported on:

- Coastal Zone funds for Water way Trails.
- EDA – Infrastructure funding that leads or retains jobs is available.
- MDOT – State long transportation range plan. Integrating all transportation plans into one plan.

### **Director's Report:**

*Administration:* D. Rekowski stated a draft of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NEMCOG and the NE MI Consortium has been provided to the attorney for review. Hope to have revised draft at the next meeting.

*Grants:* D. Rekowski submitted RPI 2018 Grant Application but has not yet heard if a grant was approved.

A Lake Huron Coastal Trail development grant was submitted to CZM. The trail would be located south of the City of Alpena to the Oscoda Iron Bell Trail connector.

### *Projects:*

*Regional Prosperity Initiative:* Attended the State RPI Meeting where the Governor was in attendance. The Northeast MI Region in comparison to the others have good representation from many sectors.

*Joint Land Use Study (JLUS):* the project is moving along. Two public meetings are being organized to gather input on recommendations and are scheduled for April

*Up North Trails –* Both NEMCOG and Networks NW are working on a public/private partnership for sustainability.

*MSU Extension* is hiring a Regional Government and Public Policy Educator to be housed out of Cheboygan. D. Rekowski is sitting on the interview committee.

*Community Corrections:* The Northeast MI Community Corrections Advisory Board (NEMCCAB) will meet tomorrow, January 19, 2018 and will need approval of members from the County Boards.

### **Committee Reports**

*Finance Committee:* C. Altman reported there was a Finance Committee meeting prior to the board meeting today. There was no quorum at the December, 2017 meeting so it was rescheduled for today. Took a look at cash disbursements; all checks included. Also, looked at fees for services and suggested new fees for NEMCOG Services, a copy of the suggested fees were handed out to the board. A roll call vote was taken to approve the new fee for services, J. Scheel moved, supported by C. Altman to approve the new fee for services as presented. All ayes, motion carried. A current membership list was provided to the board.

*RPI Collaborative:* No Report

### **Previous Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **County Updates:**

**Alcona Co.:** Union negotiations, no raises. Opioid lawsuit, joined yesterday. Continue to deal with Cedar Lake spill issue. A 1940's contract for the dam is causing current day issues. Building Department is operating in a deficit. Alcona County was the 1<sup>st</sup> out of 83 in the state, oldest county.

**Alpena Co.:** Working on Jail. Will be interviewing Architects next week.

**City of Alpena:** 1/25/18 there will be a public input meeting to discuss RV park in Mich -e-kwis Park. Working on MEDC facade grant. Northern Credit Union breaking ground in the spring.

**Cheboygan Co.:** Inverness Township and City of Cheboygan are working out a deal for the new Meijer store. Expanding the jail and looking for planners.

**Crawford Co.:** Informed Board of two new Brownfield Development projects. Discussed Camp Grayling groundwater contamination: results coming back closer to normal. Also looking for judicial and planning staff.

**Emmet Co.:** New Chairman, new administration in 2 weeks. Now installing BS&A. Public hearings are being held regarding transit service.

**Mackinaw City:** Received Trust Fund Grant to help purchase a residence to create a larger park, open North Shore to the public. There has been a 43% increase in sewer rates, 134% increase in water rates. Bridge Walk – issues with paying for event. Started negotiations with Police Union.

**Montmorency Co.:** 911 costs are surprising. Millage was passed and ordered equipment to help. Wages were increased by 2.1% across the board for everyone. BS&N software has been installed in clerk's office.

**Presque Isle Co.:** Hired Civil Counsel. BS&A software is being installed. County rejoined HUNT.

**Oscoda Co.:** Union negotiations, 4 counties included. Moving forward on the rebuilding of the Courthouse. Hopes to have Phase 1 drawing in next week or so.

**Otsego Co.:** Meetings have been held with Kirtland and the University Center for a millage to support construction and operations. Wolverine Power, City of Gaylord and Otsego County working on an electric vehicle infrastructure plan.

**M. Heidemann:** Heft State Park received \$400,000 grant to put in electric and cable. Many visitors to the park have ended up purchasing homes in the area. Ocqueoc Outdoor Center received \$70,000 plus match to fix up a building also, creates construction jobs as well. AmeriCorp people are good people to consider when trying to fill open positions.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2018.