



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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**MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
December 17, 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. A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Board Members

Present: Dan Gauthier, Dave Karschnick, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, Kyle Yoder, Rob Pallarito, Carl Altman, Scott McLennan, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Jeff Lawson and Norm Brecheisen

Staff Present: Denise Cline, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting. D. Karschnick moved, seconded by J. Wallace to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the October 1-November 30, 2020 financial statements. Informed the Board that NEMCOG finances are doing very well and the Audit has begun and will have a presentation by the firm once completed. C. Altman moved, seconded by S. McLennan to receive and file the October 1-November 30, 2020 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

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 D. Rekowski's absence (medical leave).

- US23 Heritage Route Management Council, web site numbers were very high; had a large amount of mailing. Usually the website traffic comes from Detroit area, this year it's been from Chicago.
- City of Alpena: D. Cline assisted the City of Alpena during the period they were without a Planner and served on their Medical Marijuana Committee. There were several applicants that went through the process however, 1 applicant didn't score high enough for approval. Now they

have filed a lawsuit that includes D. Cline. She said she's not sure where it's going to go. She was told by the City that she falls under the City's insurance.

D. Cline gave a brief rundown of D. Rekowski's Directors report items:

Administration

- All staff working remotely. D. Rekowski is on medical leave however continuing with emails and limited work. T. Huff is going in once a week to complete administrative work. All has been going smoothly. Holding weekly staff meetings via videoconference.
- Secured labor attorney to review NEMCOG Policies for compliance with laws.
- Hired PT staff under the EDA - COVID grant to assist Target Alpena and Otsego County Economic Alliance. Contracted with Northern Lakes Economic Alliance for Cheboygan County. Have a shared staff agreement with the City of Grayling for staff time with their economic development staff to assist NEMCOG staff with community development efforts in Oscoda, Alcona, and Crawford and Montmorency counties.
- Developed policy for Covid-19 and Resolution for Part 115 Adoption.
- Determined annual allocation of project hours.

Projects

- EDA Planning grant: Submitted a grant for Alcona County Broadband plan and rollout strategy. Grant has been tentatively awarded pending submission of final documents.
- JLUS: Implementation Grant has been initiated. Tasks involve increased information and educational dissemination via websites, forums (when able) and tours. Planning and Zoning to develop overlay zones for prevention of encroachment from development will be implemented in key townships. A contractor was chosen for the Grayling Transportation Study Update and work on the study has begun.
- EDA- COVID Response grant: hired PT staff for Alpena/Presque Isle Counties; will be working for Target Alpena. Contracted with NLEA for work in Cheboygan County and TLD for local foods assistance. Hired a PT staff for Otsego County Economic Alliance, staff will cover Alcona, Montmorency, Oscoda and Crawford Counties.
- Received the EGLE & Rural Partnership Grant for the Alpena County Recycling program. Grant is focused on implementing the Rural Partnerships Recycling Contamination Reduction process that has been proven throughout the nation to reduce contamination in collection bins and curbside recycling containers.
- Working with EGLE staff – HP is going to fund six e-waste days next year. June 5 will be in Grayling, June 12 in Alpena, and June 19 in Cheboygan. The remaining three events will be held in Rogers City, Mio, and Gaylord. Promotion of these events will be key.
- Hazard Mitigation Plans are all drafted with half being reviewed by the State.
- The NE/NW MI Non-motorized Map has been printed and distributed.
- NEMCOG has been asked to partner in NextCycle Michigan, a business incubator to nurture ideas for recycling technology, material collection and processing infrastructure, organics recovery, and recovered material end markets (including recycled content use in road construction). The program's purpose is to build companies, jobs, and a circular economy in Michigan.

Committee Reports

RPI: No report.

Finance Committee: No report.

Previous Business

None

New Business

NEMCOG Resolution of Support of Part 115 Update: M. Moreau moved, D. Gauthier seconded to waive the reading of the resolution.

Motion to adopt the Resolution of Support of Part 115 Update was made by S. McLennan, K. Yoder seconded. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

NEMCOG Remote Work Policy: D. Gauthier motioned to adopt, seconded by M. Moreau. All ayes, motion passed.

NEMCOG Resolution of Financial Commitment for Alcona County, MI; Broadband Connectivity Plan and Rollout Strategy Grant.: M. Moreau made a motion to waive reading of the Resolution, S. McLennan seconded to waive the reading of the resolution.

Motion to adopt the Resolution of Financial Commitment for Alcona County, MI; Broadband Connectivity Plan and Rollout Strategy Grant was made by J. Wallace, J. Lawson seconded. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

County Updates

Alcona Co.: Currently in lockdown; dealing with issues related to that. Have 2 new board members.

Alpena Co.: Restaurant businesses are really struggling. Brad McRoberts is retiring and vacancy will be filled by Don Gilmet.

Cheboygan Co.: Just wrapped up the 2021 Budget. Increase in health insurance and Pension costs. Projects: Marina Project, County Building repairs and Connect MI to complete Broadband survey.

Livingston Twp.: Closed for roof replacement. City Joe Duff retired. Kim Awrey is filling his vacancy. She worked directly with J. Duff for quite some time. Have a new Otsego County Road Commission Manager, Kirk Harrier.

MI Works!: Lots of jobs are available; businesses are looking for staff to fill them. Training opportunities are available. Staff is still working from home.

Oscoda Co.: Bidding for members, second term. County Clerk Jerry Witten is retiring; Ann Galbraith will fill the vacancy.

Rogers City: Chief of Police is back from having COVID. Concerned for local restaurants. The county and community are trying to support them. New bakery owners; Bath and Body Works recently opened, confectionary shop opened; a new auto dealership opened, they are forward and aggressive.

Village of Mackinaw City: New fiber optic coming in; however there are some issues accessing it. Several area businesses are selling/closing, part in relation to pandemic situation.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. by R. Heilman. The next meeting will be January 21, 2021. T. Huff will be contacting everyone regarding meeting attendance and Munetrix training.