



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**

December 19, 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, Daryl Peterson, Kyle Yoder, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Scott McLennan, Doug Baum, Dave Post and Norm Brecheisen

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff, Karen Cole, Steve Schnell, Nico Tucker, Christina McEmber and Denise Cline (by videoconference)

Public Present: None

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting. C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the November, 2019 financial statements. C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Post to receive and file the November, 2019 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

K. Cole stated that the FY19 Audit is going very well, expectations this year should be better than last year.

Special Presentation: Tom Stephenson/Connect Michigan

T. Stephenson gave an update on the broadband status and progress within the region. Also provided an overview of the new tool for Internet Service Providers, NE MI's Vertical Asset Inventory developed to help improve high-speed internet access in Northeast Michigan.

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 (2) public notices.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): D. Rekowski reported that MAR is in the strategic planning process with the Final Plan expected in January.

Director's Report

D. Rekowski – EDA has invited NEMCOG to submit a three (3) year grant proposal, has a short deadline. The proposal requires a resolution of Financial Commitment for NEMCOG's Regional Economic Development Planning Grant and also a resolution for Contract Signatory.

D. Baum moved to waive the reading of the Resolution for Financial Commitment for NEMCOG's Regional Economic Development Planning Grant, seconded by D. Karschnick. Yes all, motion carried. B. Wojcik moved to approve the resolution, seconded by D. Karschnick, A roll call vote was taken. Yes all, motion carried.

A. Poll moved to waive the reading of the Resolution for Contract Signatory, seconded by R. Pallarito. Yes all, motion carried. D. Baum moved to approve the resolution, seconded by B. Wojcik, A roll call vote was taken. Yes all, motion carried.

Staff Updates:

S. Schnell: Project Updates were provided on the following: Northeast Regions Entrepreneurial Network, new website, currently waiting for URL; YouTube video: Rising Tide of Food and Farming in Northeast Michigan, created to promote small Agriculture; YouTube video: Youth Entrepreneurial-ship; Census 2020 and Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Northeast Lower Michigan Region for 2018 and 2019.

C. McEmber: Provided a status of County Hazard Mitigation Plan updates and explained the process for approval.

N. Tucker: Updated the Board on the Rural Task Force, Road Projects and Integrated Asset Management Plans.

D. Cline: Updated the Board on the following: writing/revising 14 Zoning Ordinances; presented an example of a recent interactive Zoning Ordinance; involved with Master Plans; Camp Grayling/Alpena JMTC Joint Land Use Study; Redevelopment Ready Communities; US23 Heritage Route; Up North Trails; US23 Byways brochures and atlases.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: None

RPI Collaborative: D. Baum stated that RPI was not funded for 2020. The Regional Prosperity Collaborative will continue to meet on Regional Economic and Community Development and oversee the RPI and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). Funding for projects will continue to be pursued.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

County Updates

Alcona Co.: Busy with year-end; adopted 2020 budget; committees are working on broadband. Brownfield project is going on, has been delayed a little.

Alpena Co.: Alpena County will have a grand opening ceremony for the renovated airport in May 2020. Jail project is progressing, should be enclosed by Mid-February, work is running 3-4 weeks behind. No Circuit Judge yet. 911 Center received \$800,000 in new equipment.

City of Alpena: Greg Sundin has retired and Rachel Smolinski was hired as the new city manager. The Yearend resulted in black!

City of Grayling: No report.

Livingston Township: No report.

MI Works!: Unemployment is at an all-time low. Anything less than 4% is considered full employment. Governor reinstated funds that were removed for at-risk youth program, Going Pro, etc. Effective January 1, 2020, Medicaid recipients work requirement begins at 80 hours a month. MI Works is partnering with Health Agencies to assist with the program.

Montmorency County: County negotiation's meeting with the Union ended shortly and will need mediation services. Hired a new board secretary and waiting for the Governor to appoint a new Circuit Court Judge, in replacement for Judge Mack. Budget is completed; with about a \$2,000 fund balance. Working on bonding and health insurance changes and promoting the census.

Oscoda Co.: Government building nearly completed; will be moving staff in January. Will be open to the public by February.

Otsego Co.: Finished budget; will amend after they get word from Governor. Had some renovations this past fall to the County building that have been completed. Jail is the next project. 1/6/2020 will have a presentation from the Consultants on the Jail Study.

Presque Isle Co.: Electrical Inspector is retiring. Considering sharing Plumbing Inspector with Montmorency County. Onaway received funding for a trail head and will also use a place for the Farmers Market. Presque Isle County sold the Onaway Airport to Presque Isle Electric & Gas for \$1.00, now dealing with tax abatement issues.

Rogers City: Lake Huron shoreline and trail have experienced severe damage from high water issues. Rogers City will receive Redevelopment Ready Community Certification status in the 1st quarter of 2020. Pension liability issues have been resolved.

Village of Hillman: Dealing with housing shortage and the high cost of building.

Village of Mackinaw City: Experiencing some high water issues. Damage has occurred around Mackinac Island. Some others are experiencing flooding.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the University Center in Gaylord.