

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
December 21, 2017  
BJ'S RESTAURANT  
GAYLORD, MI**

**Call to Order**

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

A quorum was declared.

**Roll Call**

Governing Board

Members Present: John Wallace, Jonathan Scheel, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Marisue Moreau, Bruno Wojcik, Mary Ann Heidemann, Doug Baum, Jeff Lawson and Norm Brecheisen.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

**Approval of Minutes**

J. Lawson presented the minutes of the October 19, 2017 meeting. C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Baum to approve the minutes as presented, seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

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

**President's Report**

*Regional Project Review:* J. Lawson presented (2) Federal Grant projects for regional review from previous month. There were (0) Public Notices and (0) "Other" (0) State Grant Applications. M. Heidemann moved to approve and send a letter of support, supported by B. Wojcik. All ayes, motion carried.

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

**Director's Report:**

*Administration:* D. Rekowski provided a draft of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NEMCOG and the NE MI Consortium for the accounting merger. Discussion took place on contents and need for an attorney review. J. Wallace and J. Lawson volunteered to have their attorney review the MOA.

*Grants:* D. Rekowski submitted RPI 2018 Grant Application. State allowed the resolution for the grant from NEMCOG to be submitted after the meeting today.

*Projects:*

*Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) -* Two public meetings are being organized to gather input on recommendations. We have had a good public turnout in Grayling but still lacking in Alpena.

State RPI Meeting - Governor's Office organized a statewide RPI meeting in Lansing recently with the Governor. Good regional representation. It was apparent that our region has better representation from schools and private sector.

Community Corrections: The Northeast MI Community Corrections Advisory Board (NEMCCAB) has met and will need approval of members from the County Boards.

MEDC Attraction Event: MEDC will be sponsoring a Site Selector Business Attraction event on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in 2018 for both NWMCOG and NEMCOG, the Governor will be there. MEDC will help with funding.

### **Committee Reports**

*Finance Committee:* No quorum at today's meeting. No report.

*RPI Collaborative:* D. Baum, Chair of the RPI Collaborative stated there was a meeting on November 30, 2017. The CEO of Taste the Local Difference, Tricia Phelps presented on Updates on the Talent Tours, getting good feedback from the High Schools, teachers and students. Idea of talent tours for adults and parents. They discussed the grant applications to the MI College Access Network (MCAN) being applied for to increase post-secondary education attainment in the region.

### **Previous Business**

None.

### **New Business**

RPI Grant Resolution: D. Baum motioned to waive the reading of the resolution, seconded by B. Wojcik, all ayes, motion passed. A roll call vote was taken for approval of the RPI 2018 Grant Application, all ayes, motion passed.

BKC Insurance: Cyber and Pillar coverage. FC and Board agreed the coverage is not needed and perhaps would cause duplication of coverage that may be included in another policy. No action needed.

### **County Updates:**

**Briley Township/Atlanta:** Experiencing some issues regarding the Marijuana legislation.

**City of Grayling:** received grant funding for Iron Belle Project Trails to connect current trails. Ribbon cutting was held for the pedestrian bridge. Canoe launch will be built in City, to be located behind state police forensic lab. Forced Waste Water Main Project to start in 2018. Kirtland CC expansion to start next year.

**Cheboygan Co.:** Possibility of two new businesses in Indian River. Wrapped up budget process, no major changes. County is recruiting to fill open positions. 911 Radio issues to put on ballot. Next year back in contract negotiations.

**Emmet Co.:** Balanced budget approved last night. County made an offer for an Administrator and has now withdrawn the offer. Has made a new offer to a new candidate.

**Livingston Township:** County Fire Authority working with other townships. Working on some road projects in the township with Nico Tucker's assistance. There is a manufacturing firm looking to locate in Livingston Township and will offer several job opportunities.

**MI Works!:** Employer Resource Network (ERN): Unofficially have been told they will receive the grant. Applied for Pre-Apprentice grant. ACC & KCC partnered with them. Working with employers to offer apprentice positions to those who take the classes to improve their math and science skills.

**Presque Isle Co.:** In the last week or so 800 radios have been installed in all of the county emergency/911 vehicles. Alpena, Cheboygan, Presque Isle and Montmorency Counties contract with District 4 Health Department for liabilities; Alpena County taking over the building of the District 4 Health Department.

**Oscoda Co.:** Selected contractor for new county building. Still dealing with EMS issues. Budget was approved at recent board meeting.

**Otsego Co.:** The County is likely to join the Opioid Class Action lawsuit. Budget has been submitted. Finishing up on contracts. Working on teamsters' contracts and having some issues. Attended a recent Medical Examiner meeting. They are considering a regional Medical Examiner/Pathologist position. Ribbon cutting at NCMC/Gaylord Community Schools was recently held.

**M. Heidemann:** Noted that Presque Isle County has experienced a lot of turnover in leadership positions in the area. Long-term restaurant called Up North 33 is reopening. Great food. MI Dept. of Labor has a business list for any zip code in the state. Underwater Sanctuary robotic classes are great for kids. Great tool, asset.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2018.