

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

**February 15, 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 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Governing Board

Members Present: Dan Gauthier, Cameron Habermehl, John Wallace, Rick Anderson, Jonathan Scheel, Daryl Peterson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Doug Baum, Dave Post and Norm Brecheisen.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Karen Cole

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting. A correction for a motion made by Doug Baum to Rick Anderson was noted. J. Wallace moved, seconded by J. Scheel to approve the minutes as amended. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the January 2018 financial statements. D. Post moved, supported by R. Pallarito to receive and file the January 2018 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

K. Cole also informed the Board she was very close to having all of NEMCOG's financials moved to the NE MI Consortiums' software.

Special Presentation

The Arauco presentation was postponed. The Company is currently in the midst of hiring.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: R. Heilman stated there were (0) Federal Grant projects for regional review from previous month.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): No report.

Director's Report:

Administration: D. Rekowski informed the Board that Theresa Huff, Administrative Assistant resigned her position for a job with the State of MI. The job opening was posted with over 50 applicants. Jon Tobin, a contractor for NEMCOG was one of the applicants. An interview was conducted and staff felt it was not necessary to interview more candidates as his qualifications were known; he had knowledge of the agency and would be able to assist with some of the technical programs. Theresa Huff is on contract to provide training for Jon.

Grants: The RPI 2018 Grant Application was approved at \$180,897 for projects and \$40,000 for transition to the Council level.

Contracts: Village of Roscommon has requested assistance on a master plan update and zoning ordinance. They are interested in becoming a member. South Branch Township and the Village of Hillman also looking for staff assistance.

Updates:

EDA: Lee Shirey, MI's Representative will be attending the March NEMCOG Board meeting. If anyone is interested in speaking privately with Lee Shirey in regards to potential EDA projects, D. Rekowski asked to let her know.

MSU Extension is hiring a Public Policy Coordinator for Region 3. D. Rekowski and Jeff Lawson are on the selection committee.

Organizing a Brownfield and Solar Workshop in the region. The Brownfield program will have 10 million in grants to be awarded by September 31, 2018. The Workshop will be held April 4, 2018; 10-12:00 at the University Center in Gaylord. Announcements will go out.

Received funding from the MI College Access Network (MCAN) to assist with understanding the low college/post-secondary achievement rates in the region.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: No report.

RPI Collaborative: D. Baum updated the Board on the Trail Town Place Plan currently being developed and the Talent Tours conducted this past year with the interest in opening up the tours to adults and parents this next year.

Previous Business

Memorandum of Agreement: D. Rekowski provided a revised draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NEMCOG and the NE MI Consortium. The revised language was provided by the Attorney and NE MI Consortium Director. D. Post moved, supported by J. Wallace to approve the MOA. Roll Call: Ayes all, motion carried.

New Business

None.

County Updates:

Alcona Co.: Undergoing Union negotiations. The County is operating in a deficit. EDC is up and running again and working on broadband.

Alpena Co.: The design plan for the Alpena Airport renovations is completed. Reviewing bids from 3 architects for the new Jail. C. Habermehl informed the Board on the following: the Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena Resource Recovery Authority will be building a new landfill cell for approximately 1.5 million; an old manufacturing Building in Alpena, Thunder Bay Manufacturing was sold; there is a new 911 Director who is a retired General and discussed their security contract with the Airbase.

City of Alpena: The City will not be pursuing the RV park in Mich -e-kwis Park due to public dissent. Also, the City has contracted out the completion of the work on the CDBG grant; completed the Redevelopment Ready Community's checklist, working on the Capital Improvements Plan and there is a 40 unit Assisted Living project being built in the City.

Cheboygan Co.: The Heritage Cove Recovery Farm project for the moderately mentally-ill in recovery has been upheld in the Appeals Court. Also advised others about property the County gets back from tax sales, and the potential costs.

City of Grayling: Governor Snyder is coming to Grayling for the Rising Tide Graduation Ceremony, today. Updated the Board on the following: a grant was received for a new public canoe launch on the Au Sable River in the City; received two Iron Belle Trail grants; completing a feasibility study for a Community Center; completed requirements for RRC; contamination at the airport. Also, discussed missing Middle Housing and a possible incentive pilot program with MSHDA and signed two union contracts (no raises)

Crawford Co.: Informed Board that there were many new businesses opening. Discussed potential bond millage for library; the cost of replacing their Building/Zoning Administrator groundwater contamination: results coming back closer to normal. Also looking for judicial and planning staff.

Emmet Co.: The County has a new Chair, new Administrator and Finance Director. The three counties have a new 911 Director. Public transit may become a reality in the county.

Livingston Township: Informed the Board of the new company, NAI locating in the township.

Mackinaw City: Still involved in a lawsuit. Discussed private land being turned over to the Little Traverse land Conservancy. This will allow the Village to complete the Pathway to the Trailhead. Staff is working on submitting two CZM grants. Updated on upgrade projects at the marina, zoning ordinance and master plan updates are close to adoption, sign ordinance amendment and police contract almost completed.

Montmorency Co.: Discussed issue with finding a medical examiner now that the current one is retiring. Reported that it will cost the County \$175,000 for Motorola to update the 911 dispatch; new cameras have been installed in the Court House; new software, BSA is operational and two new patrol cars are being purchased through the millage.

NE MI Consortium: Updated the Board on the Career Fairs; Arauco hiring process; and NAI is moving to Gaylord investing 2.7 million and bringing 40 jobs, most being high-tech..

Presque Isle Co.: County's upgrades at the County Building, lights and tile resulted in conducting Asbestos Abatement in the building. Discussed Medical Marijuana Grower and informed the Board they will be installing BSA.

Oscoda Co.: Approved schematic design for the new County Building; involved with union negotiations , and filling EDC board members. Also discussed EMS over budget, under revenue issue and the need to work with other municipalities on collaborative funding for management.

Otsego Co.: The County also has a need for a medical examiner. There has been a proposed 36 unit apartment complex in Bagley Township. Holiday Inn is not yet completed. The Airshow held in June on Father's day weekend is going to be showcasing the big cargo plane. County is involved with issues regarding contracts, budget and funding of the bus system.

Village of Hillman: Updated the Board on the broadband project using tv white space.

Public Comment:
None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held on march 15, 2018.

