

**MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2017
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 President Robert Heilman at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Governing Board

Members Present: Kathleen Vichunas, Cam Habermehl, John Wallace, Rick Anderson, Jon Scheel, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Gary Nowak, Doug Baum, Dave Post, Bill Wishart and Jeff Lawson.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Meg Foote and Theresa Huff

A quorum was declared present.

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the October 16, 2016 and January 17, 2017 meeting. C. Habermehl moved, supported by J. Wallace to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

M. Foote reviewed the January 31, 2017, financial statements with the Board. A motion to change reporting of net income line item on the financial statements was made by J. Scheel, supported by R. Anderson. All ayes, motion carried. C. Altman moved, supported by D. Post to receive and file the January 31, 2017 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

Election of Officers

R. Heilman called for nominations for President. D. Post moved, seconded by J. Wallace to nominate Robert Heilman as President, Richard Anderson for Vice-President and Jeff Lawson as Executive Board Member. A motion was made by M. Moreau, seconded by D. Post to close nominations. Ayes all, motion carried. B. Wojcik moved, supported by R. Pallarito to reappoint the slate of officers. Ayes all, motion carried.

Board Appointments

The following Committee appointments were made:

Bylaws: Doug Baum, Robert. Heilman, Gene Thornton.

Finance: Jonathon Scheel, Gene Thornton, Dave Post, Carl Altman, Adam Poll.

Nominating: Kathy Vichunas, Dave Post

A motion was made by C. Habermehl, seconded by A. Poll to concur with the Bylaws, Finance and Nominating Committee appointments. Ayes all, motion carried.

The following serve as representative to NEMCO, according to Bylaws:

Executive Board: Robert Heilman, Rick Anderson, Jeff Lawson.

RPI Collaborative: Doug Baum, Chair of the RPI Collaborative.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): President of NEMCOG serves on MAR.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: None

MI Association of Regions (MAR):

D. Rekowski reported on the January MAR meeting. A presentation on the Governors Infrastructure Initiative was held, with updates from MDOT and other partners. NEMCOG will be sponsoring the MAR Annual meeting to be held in Alpena on July 16 & 17th. All board members are welcome to attend.

Other: None

Director's Report: D. Rekowski

D. Rekowski reported on the following:

- Reviewed Program Highlights which provides programs and projects agency staff are working on.
- Received the Department of Defense contract for Camp Grayling and Alpena Joint Military Training Center, Joint Land Use Study (JLUS).
- Completed and submitted the EDA Grant (3 years). First time in 30 years or more the grant was increased from \$55,000 to \$70,000. The match is committed by project funds that support the goals and objectives of the EDA work program.
- Community Corrections Grant: Senator Booher received Crawford County's Resolution on the DOC's denial of the Community Corrections grant. A meeting was held with stakeholders (judges, jail administrators) to discuss community corrections programming. A follow-up meeting will be held with the Department's Manager to discuss FY 2018's grant.
- RPI: Received grant award of \$180,987. Contract has not yet been received.
- Recreation Grants will be written for fee of \$1,500.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: K. Vichunas presented the following nominations to fill the Board Vacancies:

Municipal: Bruno Wojcik as

At-Large: Mary Ann Heidemann

Municipal: Gary Nowak.

R. Anderson moved to approve the appointments as presented, supported by K. Vichunas, Ayes all, motion carried.

Previous Business

None.

New Business

Resolution/Authorization for Contract Signatory 2017

B. Wojcik moved to waive the reading of the Resolution/Authorization for Contract Signatory 2017, supported by A. Poll, all ayes, motion passed. D. Post moved to approve resolution, supported by B. Wojcik, all ayes, motion passed.

Resolution: NE MI Economic Development Administration 3-Year Planning Grant: Commitment of Match.

D. Baum moved to waive the reading of the Resolution, supported by B. Wojcik. Ayes all, motion passed. B. Wojcik moved to approve the Resolution, supported by D. Baum, Ayes all, motion passed.

County Updates:

Alpena Co.: Discussed the rising costs of the County's Childcare fund.

Alcona Co.: Alcona County Board as a result of the election or not running for office, have several new members. Some office moving is taking place. Filling part-time vacancies with MSU and the Clerk's office. Having some MERS liability issues.

Otsego Co.: Also having Childcare fund issues. Had a recent visit from the Canadian Snowbirds – Air Team. They will be celebrating their 150th Birthday and will be at the Otsego County's Air Show this year.

Briley Twp.: No Report.

Village of Hillman: Shopping for insurance for employees. Working on Stormwater And Wastewater (SAW) grant. Equipment for GIS planning will be purchased through this grant, with the assistance of Nico Tucker. The Airport Well test results indicated there is not enough water for their use. Started radio station just over a year ago, it's doing well. Doing basketball games currently. Getting a lot of community support.

City of Rogers City: Will be hiring fulltime the City Manager that Rogers City has been sharing with Onaway, starts April 1st. Having MERS issues, large deficit.

Crawford Co.: Veteran Counselor is doing a good job. Mental Health evaluations are being done, 3 veteran interviews performed each week. Airport: On March 1st there will be a public hearing to address 60 hazardous threats identified at the airport. Discussed shortage of housing concerns. Crawford County Board remained the same.

City of Alpena: Draw bridge work continues through late April/May. Informed the Board of the Medical Marijuana training that will be held, completing a min-grant received for Trail Signage. Holiday Inn expecting to open in early June. Received DNR Recreation grant funds for a Splash Park.

City of Grayling: Discussed their Bridge project and DNR bringing funds for the project through a non-grant source. Updated on the County/City Iron Bell Trail project; staff changes; new Kirtland Health and Science Institute enrollments have far exceeded their expectations. New development projects are going on – 5 buildings have been sold. ARAUCO announced official ground breaking to be held on April 12th. Housing is a major issue already, and they haven't even opened yet. Developers are working to come up with a solution.

City of Gaylord: Discussed issues with the Farmers market. Downtown projects to start in the spring from Main Street to Otsego. Projects include water and sewer upgrades, changing from 4 to 3 lanes, all to be completed by July 1, 2017. Working on MERS issues. Has gotten the last township involved with the Iron Belle Trail project and are excited about that.

Oscoda County: County voted to rebuild what was lost in the fire. Working with the funds that the insurance company is paying. EDC: Dark Sky Park is in the works, working on signage and advertising. Planning Commission had 3 members resign, hope to have them filled and in place before summer. EMS budget is having some issues, but is putting a good plan in place as they move forward.

Presque Isle Co.: Approved the Recreation Plan that NEMCOG prepared. Updating 911 system to include Fire, Police and EMS on 800 radio service. Will cost \$1 million dollars and will be expensed over 10 years. County will raise the fee on phone bills to help cover some of the cost. County Board is holding a workshop to plan for the future. Have a new Equalization person who moved up to fill the position when previous person retired.

Michigan Works!: Talent fair coming up in Mackinaw City, 3 large counties will be having a fair April. Are trying to set up expos in schools to offer job information to students.

Emmet County: Dark Sky Park grand opening will be June 22. Recent freezing rain shut down the airport for 3 days. Board level-Agenda software is being purchased to help clerk. It will be viewable as it is being prepared. Selling “The Welcome” ship to a private owner who wants to put it in the bay at Mackinaw City. Looking at EMS closely. Budget is being challenged, has become more costly than what was anticipated. Updating financial software. Lost Community Director, struggling to see what to do about the position.

Cheboygan County: Completing jail study analysis with the focus on a kitchen, cells and storage areas. MERS budget issues-went to a hybrid plan for new staff. Regional 911 system: 911 draft report coming in next month or so, estimating it will cost \$5-7 million to update. Working on how to pay for it.

Mackinaw City: Belles Fisheries will not reopen. Discussed: MERS issue; updating of Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan using NEMCOG services of Denise Cline; Marijuana business ordinance; lawsuits; vacation home rentals,

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2016.