



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**

February 20, 2020

**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, John Wallace, Kyle Yoder, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Mary Ann Heidemann, and Norm Brecheisen

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

Public Present: Mark Becmer

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting. C. Altman moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the January, 2020 financial statements. M. Heidemann moved, seconded by J. Wallace to receive and file the January, 2020 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Presentations

Jim Kraenzlein/Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein, P.C.: FY2019 Audit

J. Kraenzlein briefly covered the FY2019 audit in summary. A copy of the audit was sent out to the board prior to the meeting for review. J. Kraenzlein stated the audit went very well this year. NEMCOG had a really good year. Only had two audit findings which appear in most audit reports. Communication went well and staff did a great job. Audit has been prepared timely and filed approximately 3 weeks ago. M. Heidemann moved, seconded by B. Wojcik to accept and file the FY2019 Audit as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Yes all, motion carried.

Laura Bowen/Partnership Specialist – 2020 Census

L. Bowen provided handouts to the board. This will be the 24th Census. Here to explain the next steps and to hype it up. She explained the stages and methods of completing the census. Postcards are coming out in March. Discussed how each house and person is contacted to assist with the completion process. Think about what can be done in the municipality to encourage their community members to complete the audit. Any ideas and suggestions can be communicated to L. Bowen at laurasbowen@gmail.com.

Election of Officers

At the last finance committee meeting on January 30, 2020, it was decided to make the recommendation to keep the officers as they were. President would remain Robert Heilman, Vice President would remain Rob Pallarito and Adam Poll would remain the Executive Member. C. Altman motioned to close nominations; seconded by B. Wojcik. Yes all, motion carried.

Appointments to the Board

Mark Becmer, Regional Coordinator/Region 7 Health Coalition. R. Pallarito motioned to appoint M. Becmer, N. seconded by N. Brecheisen. Yes all, motion carried.

D. Rekowski noted that at the January 20, 2020 Finance Committee meeting, it was recommended to invite the City of Onaway to the Board. D. Rekowski sent a letter; however, we have not received a response yet.

Finance and Nominating Committees are the same group of people. Should they be a combined as one committee instead of two separate committees? M. Heidemann moved, seconded by B. Wojcik to combine the two committees into one. 11 Ayes, 1 opposed, motion carried.

Bylaws Committee: The committee will meet in the next couple of months to review. Could meet on the same day of the Board Meeting, possibly after the meeting over lunch. It was asked if anyone wanted to be removed from the committee. Everyone said no. The committee will remain the same.

RPI Collaborative: D. Baum will remain the committee member.

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 (3) public notices.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): R. Heilman stated that there is a MAR meeting on March 4th and 5th for training.

Director's Report

D. Rekowski informed Board that Steve Schnell is leaving and his last day is March 13, 2020. Current staff member, Christina McEmber will become permanent and will be trained by D. Cline and N. Tucker to complete the current projects and we have a plan in place. Economic Development will be done by D. Rekowski. RPI and Iron Belle are both gone. Have to discuss and plan what's next. Will discuss other options for Director in future. Wages are not at market rate; however, staff enjoys the good benefits and ability to work from home and flexibility. Additionally, people are much more critical and nit-picky. Consider out-of-the-box ideas. D. Rekowski will prepare a letter from the Board to S. Schnell for his contribution to NEMCOG and the Region.

Program Highlights for the period of October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 was provided to the board.

EDA Peer Review with Lee Shirey was on January 30th. It went very well.

On March 4th at ACC from 1-3 p.m. there will be Federal Grant Forum at Gary Peterson's office.

Projects

JLUS, E-Waste, Solid Waste, Hazard Mitigation, 3 year EDA

One of each of the new publications was provided to the board: Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas, Non-Motorized Trails Map Guide and the History Map Guide. They turned out great! Would like to get them out to the communities. Will communicate how to get some in the near future.

Committee Reports

RPI: None

Finance Committee: C. Altman said a meeting was held on January 30, 2020 in Hillman. Reviewed the FY2019 Audit and it was recommended for approval. Cash Disbursements reports were motioned to receive and file report. Discussed Board nominations. Adjustments to the budget were made to reflect revisions to contracts that changed after the budget was adopted. It was recommended to approve the amended budget. Copies of the amended budget were handed out to the NEMCOG Board. K. Cole briefly reviewed the amended budget. This includes new project, money that was moved around as needed to follow audit recommendations. Will continue to do this going forward. It will continue to change. B. Wojcik moved to approve the amended budget as presented, seconded by C. Altman. A roll call vote was taken, Yes all, motion carried. Discussed Bylaws to be reviewed for updating. No date has been chosen for the next meeting yet, usually flexible.

D. Rekowski recommended not having a March NEMCOG Board meeting due to spring break and usually a lack of quorum. M. Heidemann moved, seconded by J. Wallace to cancel March, 2020 meeting. Yes all, motion carried. The next meeting will be April 16, 2020.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

County Updates

Alcona Co.: Broadband access in county making strides. 2nd Amendment Resolution to be Sanctuary County was declined. Brownfield project is almost complete.

Alpena Co.: Ed Black was appointed the Judge by Whitmer. March 3rd, the new airport will have their first flight. Jail project is back on schedule and is enclosed now. Next Tuesday, they are having a meeting for the 2nd Amendment Gun Rights discussion and will vote.

Briley Township: Freddie's, great sales, does good business. Hemp Company working on negotiations. Have huge plans for old school. Hope to make superior product which has a much higher value.

Cheboygan Co.: Black River – received phone call. Looking for financial relief, likely will end with conflict.

Livingston Township: N/A

Media/Rogers City: Reeling from water damage. Pass resolution to open federal funding to help fund repairs. Laws are written to fix damage after it happens but not to prevent it. Asked if NEMCOG Board would write a letter of support to Stabenow, State and Federal to revise the laws to allow protective measures. M. Heidemann

moved, seconded by J. Wallace for NEMCOG write a letter of support for Federal Disaster Law change request. Yes all, motion carried

MI Works!: Working on April Career Fairs and Career Quest. Cancelled the March, 2020 meeting.

Oscoda Co.: Finally moving furniture into the new county building. Making small repairs. People will be moving in within the next couple of weeks. Some departments are holding off until April. Hope to have a grand opening event in the spring.

Otsego Co.: Menards has been approved and moving forward this spring, new Veterans Clinic coming along nicely, Lucky's Steakhouse hoping to open soon, Discount Tire will be coming next to Lucky's, 3 hotels coming, 1 retail lot in area by it hasn't been announced who yet. Apartment complex is progressing, (232 units). January 28, 2020 the county approved ballot language for the Justice Complex millage. It will be a special election in May. They are asking for \$1.95 mil which is \$8.13 per medium home in Otsego County. Has to release some prisoners to stay in compliance.

Presque Isle Co.: N/A

Region 7 Healthcare Coalition: Recently participated in table top exercise special pathogens. It was covered by local news, 9&10 and 7&4 News and was well covered. Was in Grand Rapids training and is now an instructor for programs. 402 NIMS for Senior Officials (executive, elected and appointed) and 191 Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface. Communities can schedule courses through Emergency Management first and R7HC can assist with the class.

Village of Mackinaw City: Having high water issues; some sewer pump issues with rotting materials. Tribal Marijuana shop progressing. Core of Engineers are doing some exploring practice ranges and misc. and are close to being done with project.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at the University Center in Gaylord.