

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

**February 21, 2019**

**University Center**  
**Gaylord, MI**

**Call to Order**

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Jeff Lawson, Executive Board Representative at 10:08 a.m.  
A quorum was declared.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Dan Gauthier, Biller Peterson, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, James Kargol, Daryl Peterson, Kyle Yoder, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Mary Ann Heidemann, Doug Baum, Dave Post, Jeff Lawson and Norman Brecheisen  
Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

**Approval of Minutes**

J. Lawson presented the Minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting. C. Jansen moved, seconded by J. Wallace to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

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

**Election of Officers**

D. Post, Nominating Committee made the following recommendations for officers: President: R. Heilman, Vice President: R. Pallarito, Executive Board Member: A. Poll. Motion to approve board nominations by J. Wallace, seconded by R. Pallarito, Yes all, motion carried

**Board Meeting Schedule**

R. Pallarito took over the Chair position as R. Heilman was absent. D. Rekowski briefly discussed the FY2019 Board Meeting Schedule. C. Jansen moved, seconded by D. Post to have at least two board meetings at other locations this fiscal year with the intent to add additional locations in future years. Yes: 16; No: 1, motion carried.

### **Board of Directors Appointments**

Currently the board has 1 vacant municipal position. It was offered to Kelly Stockwell and the Village of Lincoln but hasn't heard back from them at this time. Suggested Rogers City and also suggested perhaps a female candidate to help balance out the board. If anyone has any other recommendations, please let D. Rekowski know.

### **Committee Appointments**

R. Pallarito asked for volunteers for Bylaws Committee: R. Heilman, D. Peterson and D. Baum  
Executive Board Committee: R. Heilman, Rob Pallarito and A. Poll.

Finance Committee and Nominating Committee: C. Altman, A. Poll, D. Post, D. Peterson and J. Kargol.

RPI: D. Baum

Motion to approve the committee appointments as listed above, board nominations by D. Peterson, seconded by C. Altman, Yes all, motion carried.

### **President's Report**

**Regional Project Review:** D. Rekowski stated there was (0) Federal Grant projects for regional review; (0) State Grant projects for regional review and (1) public notice.

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

### **Director's/Staff Report**

D. Rekowski informed the Board of the following:

\* Due to more work than staff can handle a new one-year entry-level Planner Position has been created. Advertisement has taken place and several resumes were received.

\* Small Business Development Center (SBDC) needs a host for NE Michigan. It is funded federally and by local match for each region. They provide critical start-up and retention business counseling in the region that is unduplicated. D. Rekowski organized a meeting with SBDC, community colleges and EDC's to explore funding opportunities.

\* A RPI Council-level Executive Committee meeting will take place between the NEMCOG Executive Board and the NE MI Consortiums, likely prior to the April NEMCOG Board meeting.

\* Will be entering into a contract with a new life insurance carrier. Rates are less than current carrier and a little better coverage.

### **FY 2019 Projects**

\* RPI: Integrated Asset Management – sponsoring 2 workshops – need to get Managers/Directors to meetings.

\* RFP's for RPI Mini grants will be released soon.

\* JLUS: Plan completed. There will be two Community Councils, one for each base. Developing a Website and implementation grant

\* MEDC - CDC: Project for Attraction Video's per county has been initiated.

\* Solid Waste: discussed funding and legislation needed for Plan Updates – moving to Materials Management Plans.

\* Informed the Board that the Hazard Mitigation Grant was received.

\* Provided Program Highlights and Accomplishments of the RPI to the Board.

Northeast MI Community Corrections: Nicole Palmer, Community Corrections Program Manager provided an overview of the current program. Next year hopes to expand pretrial program and cognitive programs if funding is approved. Provided survey forms to the board along with Bench Guides. Will provide jail data to T. Huff to email to the board. Any questions, concerns or recommendations can be sent to N. Palmer at npalmer@nemcog.org or call her at 989-705-3735.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:** D. Post stated the Finance Committee met to review the Financials and the FY 2017 Audit. There were issues with FY2017 audit mainly due to staff changes and monthly financials were not getting completed. K. Cole has done a very thorough job to get things back in order. The Finance Committee recommends to the Board to receive and file the FY 2017 Audit report.

D. Post also informed the Board that the FY2018 Audit is underway with a new company, Straley, Lamp & Kraenzlein and should be completed to complete by the end of March early April

**RPI Committee:** D. Baum: Consultant prepared a 10 year plan. It will be reviewed at next week's RPI meeting. A handout of the RPI Highlights for 2014-2018 was provided to the board and briefly reviewed.

### **Previous Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **County Updates**

**Alcona Co.:** Informed the Board of the following: Union negotiations for wages occurring, Emergency Manager is retiring, Scott Rice is the new Manager. MSN featured "Town where Retirees can't retire", featured Alcona County. FY2020 Budget is in the works.

**Alpena Co.:** Discussed airport terminal construction and the new jail project bid which is over budget.

**Cheboygan Co.:** Projects are in progress: security system updates and a 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> storage facility for Law Enforcement. Also discussed Solar Regulations.

**City of Alpena:** stated the 1 lawsuit with township that went to mediation was unsuccessful and will be going back to court. Submitted a Letter of Intent to MEDC, discussed Marijuana ordinance issues, "Public Place" clarification and working on the 2020 Budget.

**City of Grayling:** DPW Facility construction has begun. Civil litigation heading to mediation; likely arbitration after that. 3 downtown development projects are in the works. Arauco ran its first board; working out issues. Spoke with them about NEMCOG Board touring facility this summer. Working on Fire Protection contracts.

**Emmet Co.:** 911 System update has begun. Transit system changes have started, starting numbers are low.

**MI Works!:** April Job fair coming up, Career Quest in May

**Montmorency Co.:** Union Contract approval with minimum raise at \$0.50 per hour, maximum at \$1.00 per hour. 2 deputies resigned and 1 other quit. The 3 have been replaced. Sheriffs 911 phone system update is completed and has received the first payment from Phone Company.

**Oscoda Co.:** Has an entire new board but off to a good start. New Courthouse building project had issues with the insurance company and now making progress.

**Otsego Co.:** Budget/Finance Committee meeting regarding buildings, courts, etc. For 5 weeks there has been a front page article in the Gaylord Herald Times featuring the current jail. It's a 60's building, has 34 beds and is consistently overcrowded.

**Presque Isle Co.:** Onaway Airport has been closed with some opposition, leaving 1 airport remaining in Rogers City. Working on an employee policy regarding Marijuana.

**Mary Ann Heidemann:** Informed the Board on Dam local duties and inspections are due every 3 years.

**Village of Hillman:** Budget has been drafted and should be o.k. Village is in need of increased water supply and has a new test well.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on March 21, 2019 at the University Center in Gaylord.