

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

March 15, 2018
University Center
Gaylord, MI

Call to Order

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Board President Robert Heilman at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dan Gauthier, Cameron Habermehl, John Wallace, Daryl Peterson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau and Mary Ann Heidemann.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Karen Cole, Jonathan Tobin, Steve Schnell and Nico Tucker.

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting. D. Peterson moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the February 2018 financial statements. J. Wallace moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to receive and file the February 2018 financial report. Ayes all, motion carried.

Special Presentation

Lee Shirey, MI EDA Representative: MI EDA is a small development group that provides funding directly to NEMCOG. They coordinate with NEMCOG to identify infrastructure and economic development projects that are needed in the region, then work with the individual communities to implement those projects. They work with Eligible Applicant Owned Infrastructure which includes Local Units of Government, Special Unit of Government and Non-Profit Entity. Investments go into anything owned by those entities. MI EDA is entirely a grant funding agency, everything is based on a Matching Grant. Grants are typically 1 to 1 but there are some scenarios that allow the grant to fund up to 80%. Grants range from around \$25,000 to \$3 Million just depends on what the projects is. If you have any projects you would like to fund you can present them to D. Rekowski and she will bring them to L. Shirey at MI EDA for review.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: There was one project request from Alcona Citizen's for Health Inc. for a new building for Oscoda Services. Total project cost is \$4,548,000, total grant requested is \$500,000. A. Poll moved, seconded by C. Altman to approve the grant request. Ayes all, motion carried.

MI Association of Regions (MAR):

MDOT came and reported on the bike maps in region and is looking for funding to update them with all of the new trails that have been added in the region. MDOT is also now requiring culvert inventories and the responsibility to complete those will fall on the Road Commissions.

DEQ is shifting it's focus for solid waste from landfill capacity to recycling. Michigan currently has the lowest tipping fee in the country and the Governor is looking to increase the tipping fee by about 15%. Looking to fund \$60,000 a year per county for recycling. That number would increase by \$10,000 per county if recycling is coordinated on a region level.

DNR is looking for help from the regions to help create ORV maps. The DNR is also working on an action plan for the Deer Chronic Wasting Disease that is moving into our state deer populations.

Director's Report

Jonathan Tobin is NEMCOG's new Communications Director. Jonathan presented a brief explanation of the email issues NEMCOG had through the month of February, the agency email back up and running as of the date of the meeting. Diane then handed out the new Program Highlights to the Board Members. N. Tucker handed out information about the road infrastructure planning for the next 5 years and went through a brief explanation of the reports. S. Schnell highlighted some of the projects he has been working on, one of which is the Redevelopment Ready Communities. It is a program that will help communities plan longterm for redevelopment in the future. NEMCOG currently has a contract with the MEDC to provide funds for a certain number of communities in the region to become Redevelopment Ready Communities. The other project S. Schnell is involved with is the Iron Belle Trail. He is working with the communities in our region to build the trail through a significant part of our region. Currently working on finding a way to fund the project as we transition into a new administration.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Did not meet.

RPI Collaborative: S. Schnell presented updates on the initiatives the RPI Collaborative groups is working on. Specifically the strides they are making towards promoting Talent growth in the region. Will have more details to present in the next couple of months.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

County Updates

Oscoda County: Started core sampling to verify the ground will support the foundation for the new County Building.

Otsego County: Library will start moving the books in order to start construction of the new expansion. The books will be moved to the fourth floor of the Alpine Center, they will be housed there until around the end of October.

Cheboygan County: Their Tri-County 911 services has been approved to put an additional surcharge on citizens phone bills. Looking to update the 911 center for the Tri-County area. In Indian River the Brown Trout restaurant has been sold and is being turned into a Stake House.

NE MI Consortium: Spent the last few days with the Governor's office talking about the new Marshal Plan. Still in its early working stages and has not been approved by the legislature. The new Marshal Plan has more of an emphasis on choice over supporting Trades over Postsecondary Education or vice versa.

Montmorency County: Hired a new IT Company for the Court House, will try out this new company for a year and then go from there. The County Board is currently focusing on school safety and addressing how it will move forward with that.

City of Alpena: Had an extension on their Facade Grant with the MEDC. The Splash Park bid has been awarded and construction should be starting as soon as the weather gets nice.

Presque Isle County: They had some property that they had previously given to the EDC but there are now some private businesses that want to purchase the property. The EDC is going to gift the properties back to the county and it will split the lot up then give them back to the EDC and they will sell those new lots to the interested individuals.

Alcona County: Looking to find money for a new program called Jail Tracker. Finished union negotiations with the Sherifs Department.

Mackinaw City: Getting ready to replace the decking on one of their piers. Building new docking on the North pier for boats that are 50-60 foot long. Nearly all of that new dock space has already been leased out. They have a new brewery coming to the City as well as a new brew pub. Enron has started some geological drilling, one of their plans is to drill under the straights and possibly put in a new line. Had a large chunk of property that was given to the Nature Conservancy, somewhere around 50-60 acres.

Public Comment

A Representative from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency was present and let the group know that there would be a Veterans Meeting on April 26, 2018 at the American Legion Hall in Prudenville.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25. The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2018.