

**MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MARCH 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, Jonathan Scheel, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Gary Nowak, Doug Baum, Dave Post, Bill Wishart, Jeff Lawson, Norm Brecheisen and Mary Ann Heidemann.

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski and Meg Foote

A quorum was declared present.

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the February 16, 2017 meeting. J. Wallace moved, supported by D. Post to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

M. Foote reviewed the February 28, 2017, financial statements with the Board. R. Anderson moved, supported by B. Wojcik to receive and file the February 28, 2017 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: President R. Heilman presented (4) Federal Grant projects for regional review from previous month. There was (1) Public Notices and (1) "Other" (0) State Grant Applications. M. Moreau moved to approve all projects, supported by J. Lawson. All ayes, motion carried.

MI Association of Regions (MAR):

D. Rekowski updated the Board on the recent MAR meeting.

Other: Request change in meeting dates to drop April Board meeting. Discussion followed. J. Scheel moved to not have a meeting in April, 2017, supported by B. Wishart. All ayes, motion carried.

Director's Report: D. Rekowski

D. Rekowski provided an update on the following:

- Joint Land Use Study with Camp Grayling & Alpena Joint Training Centers. All affected municipalities and counties are being invited to serve on the Policy Committee. The Consulting co., Tetra Tech was chosen by the Policy Committee as the Consultant for the project.
- EDA 3-Year Grant Application
- Community Corrections: Due to Senator Boohar's intervention, the 2018 grant application is being written with support from the Office of Community Corrections Program Manager.
- RPI: Signed contract has been received. Mini-grant applications will be released.
- Recreation plans, grants and local contracts for planning and zoning services.

D. Cline: Reviewed information regarding Medical Marijuana and Facility Licensing Act.

Committee Reports

Previous Business

None.

New Business

None

County Updates:

Alcona Co. Attended training on Medical Marijuana legislation Joint Tri-Township (Caledonia, Hawes and Alcona) Master Plan is being completed; County has a new EMS Director and there will be a spring expo featuring farmers markets.

Alpena Co.: Commissioner Camille Nerkowski resigned due to health issues. There are many new businesses in county with continued high demand for property to site new businesses. The County is hiring new corrections officers at jail.

Cheboygan Co.: Discussed the new Meijer Store and issues related to providing Meijer with City water. May be amending the Cheboygan County Solid Waste Plan.

Crawford Co./ City of Grayling: Updated the Board on all the activity taking place in the county. Improvements include new City of Grayling downtown facades, bicycle path over I-75 to Hartwick Pines and the April 12th Arauco groundbreaking ceremony.

Emmet Co.: Informed the Board of the Dark Skies preview open house on April 17th. There will be another Open House in June. Currently, the county is conducting an inventory of all county-owned properties.

Montmorency Co.: No report.

Oscoda Co.: Informed the Board the County has released a RFP for the new County Building. In the process of hiring a new EMS staff, established a new Parks and Recreation Commission and the EDC is involved with the Dark Sky program.

Otsego Co.: Updated the Board on the early pay-off of the Humane Society and lack of support for community facilities.

Presque Isle Co.: County sent a support letter to the DNR for a Recreation Grant request to upgrade the electrical at Hoeft State Park. Thanked the staff of NEMCOG for the Recreation Plan Update and DNR Recreation grant application for the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center.

Briley Twp.: Brought the idea to the Board of pooling resources to hire an attorney for developing ordinance language regarding the medical marijuana legislation. Informed the Board that they have a new township administration and in the process of restructuring. They are documenting successes and are doing very well.

City of Alpena: No Report

City of Gaylord: Hired an attorney to assist with the medical marijuana legislation. Finalized the police contract and the new budget is in place.

Village of Mackinaw: Informed the group that the Hawk Watch has started, with many birders coming to the area. They continue to have lawsuits; when one ends another pops up. Discussed the move of the Mackinaw Museum to

the Pier; issues with property ownership affecting Recreation Grant and working with DNR on the location of the fireworks.

Michigan Works!: Discussed the very successful Job Fair held in Mackinaw City in collaboration with 2 other MI Works! Six Talent Tours scheduled. RPI funds help with funding to provide transportation for students to the companies.

Village of Hillman: The Village is working on the budget and completing the SAW grant project.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2017.