



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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

**April 18, 2019**

**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, Board President, at 10:02 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Dan Gauthier, Dave Karschnick, John Wallace, James Kargol, Kyle Yoder, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Doug Baum, Dave Post, Bill Wishart and Norman Brecheisen

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

**Approval of Minutes**

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting. R. Pallarito moved, seconded J. Wallace to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

K. Cole reviewed the March, 2019 financial statements. D. Baum moved, seconded by A. Poll to receive and file the March, 2019 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

K. Cole informed the Board that the FY2018 Audit is still in progress and expects one more meeting with the auditors.

**Presentation: Lindsey Miller, MEDC**

Lindsey introduced herself to the board as MI Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC's) Community Assistance Team (CAT) staff for the NEMCOG region. She also covers the three counties below (Roscommon, Ogemaw and Iosco) and three counties in the Upper Peninsula. Information on Community Assistance programs offered by MEDC was then reviewed along questions taken from the Board.

### **President's Report**

**Regional Project Review:** R. Heilman stated there was (6) Federal Grant projects for regional review; (0) Other projects for regional review and (1) public notice. D. Baum moved, seconded by M. Moreau to approve all the Projects as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

**MI Association of Regions (MAR):** D. Rekowski informed the Board that funding for the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) was not included in the Governor's Budget. MAR is working with Legislators to restore funding.

### **Director's Report**

**RPI:** D. Rekowski updated the Board on the RPI Mini-grant program. 34 Mini-Grant applications were received. Program is very popular within the Region. The Resolution the NEMCOG Board approved last meeting has been sent to the Region's Representatives. Meetings have been organized to discuss in detail the success of the RPI in the region. The resolution will be sent to the board members for possible action from local boards.

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Update:** D. Rekowski will be meeting with Marisue Moreau, SBDC and Kirtland Community Colleges to discuss possible collaboration to ensure small business counseling services continue in the region. May be a good topic that the new Executive Committee for the RPI Council could explore.

### **Staff Program Highlight: Hazard Mitigation**

Christina McEmber was introduced to the board as a new staff member at NEMCOG. She gave a brief status update of the Hazard Mitigation process, includes 7 counties and is in the early stage of planning and meeting with Emergency Managers in the region.

**Coming Events:** D. Rekowski provided a handout of coming events including May 1, 2019, Solid Waste/Sustainable Materials Workshop in Hillman, MSUE- Opportunity Zones Workshop, May 13th, Munetrix, May 16 NEMCOG Board meeting and Coastal Resiliency Workshop, May 21<sup>st</sup> at NOAA.

### **Committee Reports**

**RPI Committee:** D. Baum stated there was not a meeting last month; too many members were out of town due to Spring Break.

### **Previous Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **County Updates**

**Alcona Co.:** Sheriff is retiring May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Under Sheriff will fill the Sheriff's position. Have a new Emergency Manager. Union staff got a wage increase, now having to look at non-union staff wage increase.

**Alpena Co.:** New jail at \$12 million, funded by a millage. New Airport Terminal moving along fast.

**Cheboygan Co.:** New jail expansion is complete. Jail increased from 80 to 105 beds. Meijer is a possibility as a review of a 425 agreement is underway

**City of Alpena:** Finishing first CRP grant. Lots of interest in rental rehab program.

**City of Gaylord:** Approved Elmer's for street construction projects this summer. Pilot program-55 town houses behind Family Fare. Project on East Side of town will have 228 apartments coming in. T-Mobile is opening a store. Will be ripping out Shell Station/Schnapps and Hopps parking lot. Lucky's will be going in by Meijer's and south Townline.

**City of Grayling:** Approved Construction Manager to work with Architect on the Hub project. Working on site plan review. Arauco had their grand opening this week. Board will tour in the fall. Arauco is a 520,000 square foot facility with full technology. Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group is still having problems with the Camp Grayling and they no longer have an office on the base. Blake Davis was hired for marketing and scheduling the training with area police departments.

**Emmet Co.:** City of Petoskey Pit/Hole has been sold and there are plans to construct a building at the site.

**Livingston Township:** Approved right of way with Consumers to increase lines to grow facilities.

**MI Works!:** Career Fairs are going on. The next one will be in Alpena next Tuesday. 3 have been completed. Have done well, except low number in Mackinaw. Career Quest is fast approaching. 1,600 students, 4 quadrants with several employers. Have VIPs, can stop by, let Marisue know. Volunteers are welcome. If anyone wants to volunteer, let Marisue know.

**Mackinaw City:** Lawsuit back to ZBA. "Suer" back to Circuit Court. 3 businesses in town have had their roofs collapse due to the heavy snow and have been condemned. Straits pretty much free of ice.

**Oscoda Co.:** Court house update – meeting with contractor for estimate and design for the build. Hope to start in near future. Interested in learning more about Dark Skies. Oscoda County dismissed from State Law Suite. Having some road issues near airport to residents who leave near there.

**Otsego Co.:** Approved second round of Recycling RFP. Had issues with 1st round with American Waste vs. Emmet County. Goes to board for approval next week. Otsego County transit having funding issues. Will go to vote in August for a significant millage.

**Presque Isle Co.:** It's fairly quiet, looking for bids for jail roof. RFP has been released for the sale of the Onaway Airport.

**Village of Hillman:** A test well for water was completed and didn't go very well, back to the drawing board. Redoing plumbing to see if that'll help. Doing storm drain work, gearing up for summer. Dark Skies event last week, did very well. Hillman Community Radio website has a Dark Skies section and there are several amazing photos displayed. Hillman Airport 5k Run and Walk on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Will have planes and restaurants there.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on May 16, 2019 at the University Center in Gaylord.