

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

April 19, 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 10:06 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dan Gauthier, Cameron Habermehl, John Wallace, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann and Dave Post.

Staff Present: Steve Schnell, Karen Cole and Jonathan Tobin.

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the minutes of the March 15, 2018 meeting. R. Pallarito moved, seconded by J. Wallace to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the March 2018 financial statements. C. Altman moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to receive and file the March 2018 financial report. Ayes all, motion carried.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: None

MI Association of Regions (MAR): Will report next month.

Director's/Staff Report

S. Schnell presented a website with maps highlighting different aspects of the opioid epidemic in the region. Link for website- <http://arcg.is/jDrTW> The board then discussed different methods they are implementing in their areas for combat these issues.

S. Schnell asked if there would be any interest in having a Regional Medical Examiner to help alleviate some of the cost associated with having a Medical Examiner for each county. Crawford, Otsego and Oscoda counties expressed an interest in setting up a regional system for a Medical Examiner.

NEMCOG is currently working on the conditions for the Hazard Mitigation Grant that was sent out recently.

Committee Reports

RPI Collaborative: Still working on getting the Talent Survey out to students in order to have a large enough pool for the data to be relevant.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

County Updates

Alpena County: Still making progress towards building the new jail. Also working on building a \$12 million terminal at the airport. Alpena County will have to match \$2 million of the project. On the whole things are looking very good with unemployment at 5%.

Alcona County: Recently entered into a lawsuit on the opioid epidemic and will be meeting with attorneys in the next two or three weeks.

Oscoda County: Still looking for a new Medical Examiner. Have a new business coming into the county that builds model homes. The county is currently short handed on paramedics and advertising for part-time paramedics and EMTs.

Otsego County: There are five millages coming up this year. That includes the Recycling Program with Emmet County, the School Sinking Fund, the University Center/M-Tech operational fund and the County Bus System.

Cheboygan County: May have a lawsuit pending because of the Goldfront project. The group looking to sue claims they were wrongfully overlooked for a contractor bid. The county is moving forward with the jail expansion and will cost around \$2 million.

NE MI Consortium: Currently have their Spring Career Fair happening throughout the region. With employment being down they are finding that many more employers are looking for qualified staffing. This is especially apparent when it comes to trades jobs and there is currently a severe lack of qualified electricians and construction workers.

Village of Hillman: Just put a new budget in place and have a few projects planned for the year. They will be putting a new filtration system on one of their wells and should only be around \$35,000 to complete. The price for water and sewage will go up slightly but they will still be in the bottom third for pricing in Northern Michigan.

Mackinaw City: Currently going through a review of General Ordinances and will be amending the first batch tonight. Just recently adopted a new Zoning Code and is totally interactive online. R. Heilman

made a point to praise Denise Cline for her work in helping Mackinaw City to update their Zoning Code.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2018.