

**MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MAY 18, 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 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Governing Board

Members Present: Kathleen Vichunas, Cam Habermehl, Rick Anderson, Jonathan Scheel, Daryl Peterson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Post, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Doug Baum, Dave Post and Norm Brecheisen

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Meg Foote, Nico Tucker and Theresa Huff

A quorum was declared present.

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the March 16, 2017 meeting. K. Vichunas motioned with a correction. R. Pallarito made a motion to approve as corrected. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

M. Foote reviewed the April 30, 2017, financial statements with the Board. D. Post moved, supported by C. Altman to receive and file the April 30, 2017 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: No projects.

MI Association of Regions (MAR):

D. Rekowski updated the Board on the recent MAR meeting. Annual meeting will be held in Alpena on 7/17 and 18th. There will be a NOAA Underwater marine Sanctuary presentation and tour for the group, downtown walking tour and afternoon tour up the coast, view lighthouses, etc. At 7 p.m. NOAA is taking the group on a cruise, will see ship wrecks, etc. There is a lot of room left if anyone would like to join in on the fun. Let T. Huff know, details will follow as we get closer to the event.

DNR Representative updated MAR on:

- Legislation that passed opening state –land roads to ORV's in January 2018. DNR is taking an inventory on all state-land roads. A handout was passed out.
- Updating the Statewide Recreation Plan.

MDOT reported that funding next year for asset management will increase based on road miles rated.

EDA is looking for infrastructure projects. Contact D. Rekowski and she will contact Lee Shirey to help get things started.

MSU reported on a workshop they will be hosting in November on Economic Development.

Governor's Infrastructure program – will be conducting asset inventories in state of infrastructure including sewer, water, roads, fiber and utilities.

Other: None.

Director's Report: D. Rekowski

D. Rekowski provided an update on the following:

- M. Foote is leaving NEMCOG. She will stay through July 14th. She has been meeting with Marisue Moreau, NE MI Consortium/MI Works! Director to consolidate the two agency's Accounting. Due to upcoming personnel changes within MI Works!, the timing is good to make the merger. Accounting work will be from the Onaway office. Will share expenses. Feels this will be a good move for NEMCOG and MI Works! as well.
- Grants: JLUS project is moving forward and is going well. Provided a handout to the board. Shared details about upcoming team meetings and public hearing meetings as well as the Alpena and Grayling Tours. If you know of any land areas that should be included in this plan, let D. Rekowski know. D. Post noted the Hillman Airport and C. Habermehl noted the Hubbard Lake area. If anyone would like to participate in the tours to let T. Huff know.
- EDA Grant: Completed and waiting for contract.
- Community Corrections: should hear if the grant application was approved sometime in August. Have all but one county approved resolution.
- RPI Implementation plan is being worked on. Will be contracting to get the different tasks implemented. Mini-Grants: there were 16 mini grants submitted and over half will be awarded. Will be notifying those that will receive the grants by the end of next week.
- Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference is currently underway. D. Rekowski will be leaving shortly to go attend the remaining portion of the conference in Lansing. The Alpena Recycling Facility was awarded \$50,000 for upgrades.
- US23/Anne Bellanger: was nominated for an Emmy award. Will bring some attention to the NEMI area.

Nico Tucker: Reported on: MDOT is drafting a Regional Transportation Safety Plan (RTSP) for the eight counties in Region 9 plus Roscommon, Ogemaw and Iosco counties. He provided a handout with more details. The plan will offer a broad look at transportation efforts in the region. Will develop strategies to put in place going forward. If anyone is interested, contact N. Tucker and he can provide a link to the plan.

D. Baum mentioned that as leaders of local government, we need to make staff aware of following safety procedures. Be sure to wear the reflective vest while working in the field. This includes Police, EMS, etc. Save lives and reduce liability costs. Keep everyone safe.

MIOSHA: If you need contact information for them, D. Post has some info.

Committee Reports

D. Baum: RPI Mini Grants have been reviewed and those who will be awarded will be announced next week. Talent Committee is putting together Millennial Focus Groups. What are they looking for? What are the needs of younger people to attract them to the area and for them to stay within the area? Also, approved Operating Procedures at last month's RPI meeting and will be reviewing the plan to make sure we stay focused and on track. NEMCOG has a new RPI events calendar on their website. Event information can be sent to T. Huff to be added or updated on the calendar.

Previous Business

None.

New Business

None.

County Updates:

Alcona Co. They are advertising for new EMS Director and have received 22 to 23 applications. Interviews are starting this week.

Crawford Co./ City of Grayling: Discussed the following:

- Working on staffing needs,
- Discovered groundwater contamination from Camp Grayling Airport. Up to 200 homes may have been affected. The Governor's office is watching is closely.
- May 31st there will be a hearing for the fish hatchery to increase production
- Kirtland Community College is moving forward with the addition to the new facility. The addition will include space for forest products and provide additional space to the medical program.
- Infrastructure projects: MDOT road construction project will begin late summer or early fall. Infrastructure grant for sewer upgrade and expansion was received. There are 3 developers for construction of apartments and town houses.
- Budget to be taken to City Council next month, 1st time in a long time they have a surplus.
- Food Hub Market is moving forward. Already have some people that have committed to the project. Working with MDARD and Taste the Local Difference.

Emmet Co.: On 6/22 at 2 p.m. the Dark Sky is having an open house. If you can't make it to the open house, feel free to stop by anytime to check it out. It's very nice.

Montmorency Co.: D. Peterson noted that he is Gene Thornton's replacement since he resigned. Discussed issues related to County population being less than 12,000. Hired a separate accountant for budget director and are very excited about that. Trying to fill vacant board positions.

Oscoda Co.: Still trying to negotiate with POA. The rebuild is moving along nicely. In negotiations for contract. L. Olsen is now the new Commissioner Chair.

Otsego Co.: Moving forward on State Iron Belle Trail grant. Engineer work is moving forward and on schedule. There will be a public hearing on May 23rd for the 1.5 miles of trail that will go through Gaylord. Also trying to decide if it will be payment or limestone. PACE program implementing in county. For energy, lighting, etc. The Alpine Regional Tennis Association is having a fund raising event at the Grand Center in Gaylord on May 21st from 3-6 p.m.

Presque Isle Co.: Budget work is going on. Had to pay off a lot of expenses. Thinks they have a balanced budget to present. No current lawsuits.

City of Alpena: The new Holiday Inn is now open. Draw Bridge is under construction and should be open by Memorial Day. Also various street projects will begin soon. The Dog Park campaign has been closed. Results exceeded their expectations. Northland Area Credit Union will be opening. Its 4 stories high. Will add some dynamics to the skyline.

Village of Mackinaw: Only one lawsuit currently, others have been dismissed. Possibility of a second one coming regarding short term rentals. Currently, they are looking for a new Village Manager. The Police Chief is the interim Manager and until a Village Manager is hired, they also have an interim Police Chief to fill in. Mackinaw Bridge will be closed on Memorial Day for 4 1/2 to 5 hours for the bridge walk. Will have water and snacks available to offer to backed up traffic. The safety issue is long overdue and is necessary. Mentioned street projects and ongoing delays.

Michigan Works!: Had a few Career Fairs in April. Will be meeting with Arauco to figure out their talent needs. They are using an attraction company as well. They expect the starting wages will be around \$15.00 per hour.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next meeting will be held on June 15, 2017.