



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 20, 2021

Video-conference: GoToMeeting

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Board Members

Present: Dan Gauthier, Dave Karschnick, Kevin Osbourne, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, Dawn Hubbard, Rob Pallarito, Carl Altman, Robert Heilman, Mark Becmer, Doug Baum, Nathan Skibbe, Adam Poll, and Scott McLennan

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Eric Szymanski

Guest: Sara McCauley, Ruth Ann Largent, Tom Sobec and Tom Stephenson

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the April 15, 2021 meeting. D. Baum moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

None

President's Report

Regional Project Review: R. Heilman stated there are (2) Federal Grant projects for regional review; (1) other project for regional review and (1) public notice. J. Wallace moved to approve the projects as presented, seconded by N. Skibbe. Yes all, motion carried.

Director's/Staff Report

S. McCauley briefly covered the NEMI Economic Recovery Report April/May 2021 report that was sent to the board. ARPA funding - counties and metro communities must request the funds from US Treasury directly using the US Treasury Application system. For communities that are non-entitlement communities (meaning not a county

or metro area), their state government is responsible for distributing the funds. She believes more information should be out in June. Lisa McComb/OCEA is focusing on Childcare needs and is putting together a group to discuss the challenges of childcare needs in the region. Workforce is experiencing a lack of employees. Unemployment Agency will soon require proof of job searching in order to continue to receive benefits

Webinar today at 3:30 p.m. American Rescue Plan Act: DUNS and SAM Registration Workshop. S. McCauley encourages input from the Board.

Projects/Staff – D. Rekowski

- Staff continues to work remotely. Will likely return to office in June following new Hybrid format.
- Received policy reviews from Attorney. Will organize a meeting to review with Executive Committee.
- The next Board Meeting will likely be held in person at the University Center.
- Three counties are considering hiring a County Administrator. A meeting with Treasury staff and Counties can be arranged to discuss the budgetary concerns.
- ARPA Funds access webinar will be held by various partners.
- New project contracts are coming in, Hazard Mitigation approval process is moving along.
- Assisting Alpena County with a Solid Waste Plan Consistency Determination of Lafarge's application for their Type III Landfill expansion.
- Forming a stakeholder group for the new Market Development Recycling grant.
- Nearing the end of the Local Foods Supply Chain project. Setting up a meeting soon.
- Eric Szymanski, our new Regional Planner, is working on JLUS and helping D. Cline with various other projects.

Committee Reports - None

Previous Business - None

New Business

CEDs Resolution for Adoption: D. Karschnick moved to waive the reading of the Resolution, D. Gauthier seconded. Yes all, motion carried.

S. McLennan moved to adopt the NE MI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): 2021-2025, D. Baum seconded. A roll call vote was taken, yes all, motion carried.

County Updates

Alpena Chamber: Advocating rules; beginning to have events again.

Alpena Twp.: Keeping abreast on disbursements of funds. Thunder Bay Island receiving funds. They support Alpena Chamber with returning to a sense of normalcy.

Alcona Co.: No Report.

Alpena Co.: Exploring the hiring of a County Administrator. Informed the group there were 1,000 troops from 4 different states in training at the Air Base, giving the economy a boost.

City of Grayling: Economic Development project tied with Brownfield. Starting to get back to running annual events. Asked Board to consider encouraging legislatures to review Unemployment benefits, all businesses are struggling to find employees.

Cheboygan Co.: No report.

Crawford Co.: Excited that things are opening up again. Airport is closed until Mid-July. Marathon Canoe event coming soon, Business After Hours back up. Putting together a Recycling Taskforce for county-wide recycling solutions. Monday, May 24 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a “Laying of the Wreath” event for 2 privates at Johnson Cemetery.

Montmorency Co.: Having a special meeting to discuss closing the jail in Montmorency County. Considering plan to join Alpena County jail.

Otsego Co.: State and County Parks - all big weekends are full, although there are some week days still open. Tourists are arriving, town was very busy yesterday. Unemployment is causing issues finding employees to work. Every business seems to be hiring.

Mackinaw City: Tourist season is ramping up. Weather is a little iffy. 2 businesses have been purchased.

Region 7 Health Coalition: Alternate Care Trailers have been restocked, one is currently in Alpena County, the Coalition is closing out After Action and Improvement planning from the second wave of COVID 19 and our new budget period (BP3) begins on July 1, 2021.

D. Rekowski stressed that if you know anyone that doesn't plan on applying for ARPA funds, to let us know. It's very important.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. by R. Heilman. The next meeting will be June 17, 2021. Details will be provided as to whether it will be in person or virtual.