



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

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

June 18, 2020

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.

Roll Call

Board Members

Present: Dan Gauthier, Dave Karschnick, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, Daryl Peterson, Kyle Yoder, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Danny Mitchell, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann, Scott McLennan, Dave Post, Kim Awrey and Mark Becmer

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

Public Present: None

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting. C. Jansen moved, seconded by J. Wallace to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the February-May, 2020 financial statements. C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to receive and file the February-May, 2020 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: R. Heilman stated there are (1) Federal Grant project for regional review; (1) other projects for regional review and (0) public notices. S. McLennan moved, seconded by J. Wallace to approve the projects. Yes all, motion carried.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): D. Rekowski informed the Board that MAR met recently. There is a committee working on updating the Bylaws and have had an Asset Management training webinar.

Director's Report

D. Rekowski's Director's Report was sent to the board prior to the meeting (see Attachment). She briefly reviewed her report with the board and provided an update on current and upcoming projects and staffing needs.

Committee Reports

RPI: D. Rekowski stated that recent RPI meetings have been combined with the MI Works! Workforce Development Board meetings held quarterly. Until the EDA-COVID Response grant is secured and staffing is Determined, separate RPI meetings will need to be postponed.

Finance/Nominating Committee: D. Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on June 11, 2020. The meeting minutes had been sent to the NEMCOG Board for review. The Finance Committee nominated Adam Poll for the At Large NEMCOG Board of Directors position. M. Heidemann moved, seconded by R. Pallarito for Adam Poll to fill the NEMCOG At Large Board seat. Yes all, motion carried.

K. Cole briefly reviewed the Budget Adjustment report. The Budget Adjustment report had been reviewed and approved at the June 11, 2020 Finance Committee meeting. J. Wallace moved, seconded by D. Gauthier to approve the FY2020 Budget Adjustment as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Yes all, motion passed.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

County Updates

Alcona Co.: The County is back open this week; been busy and doing a good job being safe. Recently had their first meeting that was open to the public but only a few people showed up.

Alpena Co.: Jail project is coming along and hope to be completed in January. There has been \$400,000 in fraudulent unemployment claims which are now causing delays. Local MI Works offices are under a lot of stress.

Cheboygan Co.: County building is back open. The County reestablished the County EDC.

City of Alpena: City Hall is open; the public must call-in for appointments. Staff meets the public at the door and checks temperature and requires mask to enter. Will be having fireworks! \$26,000 was raised. A Public Notice will be going out about social distancing; masks, etc. to keep public safe. Brown Trout Festival is on but a smaller limit of 250 people allowed.

City of Gaylord: City Hall to open on July 1, 2020. Staff has been back to work the last 3 or 4 weeks. Last 3 council meetings have been in person. Alpenfest has been cancelled. A lot of new development in town including 2 hotels and an apartment complex. Building is back in full force! Menards have confirmed that they will be breaking ground this summer.

Crawford Co.: County is back open.

MI Works!: They have been extremely busy. Staff are under a lot of pressure; dealing with angry people. 16 employees are helping with unemployment issues. Hosting virtual talent tours and job fairs; contacting employers and posting jobs. 7/1/20 DHHS will start referring customers to MI Works! so they will have to back out of assisting with unemployment.

Montmorency Co.: They have had 2 fraud claims with unemployment and fraudulent claims are causing problems. Court opened two weeks ago. Permits are doing well. There is a Conservancy that is interested in property that is worth \$2 million.

Oscoda Co.: The new Government Building Grand Opening was scheduled for May 4th but it didn't happen. There will be a meeting Friday morning with mediation and the insurance company. Community is trying to reopen.

Otsego Co.: County is open by appointment only through the end of June. Will be installing safety barriers in the next week or two and hope to open July 1st. The new VA clinic is nearly complete; 3 hotels coming in. EMS staff was hit very hard by COVID and 2 were critically ill. They have recovered however, may not ever be able to return to work.

Presque Isle Co.: Working on County Budget that begins July 1, 2020. It was a lot of work. Back open for business now.

Region 7 Healthcare Coalition: Corona Virus/COVID-19 has kept them busy getting PPE to health care providers and various groups. They are tracking trends. Things are starting to get back to normal, but slowly. Having classes in August and hoping for good attendance. Other training classes are coming up. Flyers will be forwarded to T. Huff for dissemination to the Board. Information can also be found on their Facebook page.

Roger City: Opened City Hall this week and are following recommendations. Meetings have been resumed but are limited to 10 people. Marina is open, limited traffic vs. previous years. CENSUS: remind people to complete it. It's quick and easy, only takes 5 minutes.

Village of Mackinaw City: Will be having fireworks. All music concerts have been cancelled except one in St. Ignace. The car show has been moved to Labor Day weekend. Central Avenue has been approved for restaurant street seating.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. by R. Heilman. The next Board Meeting will be held on August 20, 2020. T. Huff will send out a poll to see if the board wants to meet in Gaylord or via Go-To-Meeting, or possibly both.