

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

**June 21, 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 10:00 a.m...

A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dan Gauthier, Cameron Habermehl, Rick Anderson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Mary Ann Heidemann, Doug Baum.

Staff Present: Steve Schnell, Karen Cole and Diane Rekowski

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the minutes of the May 17, 2018 meeting R. Pallarito moved, seconded by L. Olsen to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole reviewed the April 2018 financial statements. K. Cole explained the new Accounting System is reporting differently. C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Baum to receive and file the April 2018 financial report. Ayes all, motion carried.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: R. Heilman stated there was (1) Federal Grant project for regional review; Head Start-Early Head Start COLA Application from the NE MI Community Service Agency (NEMCSA). A. Poll moved, seconded by D. Post to recommend approval of the project. Ayes all, motion carried.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): D. Rekowski provided an update on the MAR Annual meeting that was held earlier in the week in Kalamazoo. The first day included tours of the Food Innovation Hub, Downtown Development projects and a presentation on the Promise program. The Association meeting was held on the second day including the election of officers, Annual Work Plan and Renewal of Consultant contract.

Director's/Staff Report

Administrative:

D. Rekowski reported that Theresa Huff will be coming back to NEMCOG to fill the Administrative Assistant position. The staff that took Theresa's place resigned due to medical issues. D. Rekowski informed the Board that this position is not secretarial and takes a skilled person to handle the variety of work.

Regional Issue(s): Medical Examiner

A meeting was held to discuss possible collaboration between counties to share a medical examiner. The meeting was attended by representatives from Crawford, Oscoda and Otsego counties. They concluded the following:

1. A Regional Medical Examiner would save money.
2. A Regional Autopsy Center to serve all of northern MI and portions of the UP was needed.
3. Pursue standard protocols in region. Many needless autopsies being conducted.
4. Have Mid MI Regional Medical Examiner group attend Board meeting to present their program.
5. Issue: County without a hospital – sending across county lines to hospital. Receiving county pays the bills, once person is pronounced dead.

Discussion followed by the Board with consensus to invite all counties to the next meeting.

Regional Workshops

D. Rekowski informed the Board that they will be organizing the following workshops:

1. Solar Workshop with MSU Extension in the Fall.
2. Possible Capital Improvements Training
3. Solid Waste featuring the new direction towards Material Management.

Project Updates:

An update on the following program areas was provided by D. Rekowski:

MDOT:

1. Nonmotorized Maps –seeking funds to update
2. Culvert Inventory – Oscoda County conducting inventory-

RPI:

2019 Boiler plate approved. Concerns were raised at MAR meeting over the amount of funds that can be requested for Collaborative level. Governor's office is looking into this.

Solid Waste:

1. NEMCOG received a State Award from the DEQ for the assistance provided the recycling programs.
2. Part 115 of the current SW statute is undergoing a rewrite- Materials Management focus: recycling, composting, etc. emphasis taken off of landfill capacity.
3. Governor looking at paying for Plan Updates and Implementation of Plans through raising landfill tipping fees. Michigan is currently the lowest in the country. Currently at \$0.13/yd³. Governor would like to increase it to \$4.75/yd³. Ohio at \$4.75/ton, other states up to \$13/ton.
4. Counties would receive \$60,000 for Plan Development. If Regional Plan, \$10,000 per county more. Counties would continue to receive annually the funds for implementation.

Munetrix - will ask to present at a future Board meeting.

1. Counties can receive a cash match for subscription from State.
2. Transparency Requirements for TIF
3. Infrastructure – inventory
4. Priority concern: succession planning at local level (institutional data) then pension funding, etc., infrastructure

New Contracts

1. Hazard Mitigation Grant
2. Hawes Twp. Zoning
3. Beaver Creek Twp. Master Plan Update

Steve Schnell provided an overview on the Opportunity Zones and the Redevelopment Ready Communities program. Alpena is a RRC certified community and Grayling to be certified shortly.

Committee Reports

RPI Collaborative: D. Rekowski provided a draft Region 3 Transition Plan to the Board. The draft Plan was developed by the Consultants, Strategic Policy to move from the RPI Collaborative level to the Council Level. Recommendations involve furthering the collaboration between NEMCOG and the NE Consortium through the formation of an executive governing entity between the organizations.

Finance Committee: C. Altman provided a synopsis of the Finance Committee meeting held in Hillman on June 14, 2018. Audit: The Audit will be put out for bid this year. Expenditure review: The committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Report from January from January 17 – June 13, 2018. Appropriations: a 2% increase in appropriations for counties and a \$50/municipality is recommended to the Board for 2019. It has been 6 years since the last increase. Cost of Living Increase for staff was discussed and was agreed upon by the committee. Salary increases will continue to be addressed by the committee based on budget per year.

C. Altman moved, seconded by D. Baum to approve a 2% increase for county appropriations and \$50 per municipality for FY 2019. Roll Call: All Yes, motion carried.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

County Updates

Alpena County: City of Alpena: Splash Park will be completed by the 4th of July. The Dog Park is almost completed. The City is now RRC certified. Informed the group of new projects in the City: Northland Credit Union and the new Thunder Bay Transit Authority building. Also, new trolley routes were established.

Alcona County: Ratified contracts with unions. Informed the Board there will be 3 new millage proposals on the ballot. Applying for Brownfield Redevelopment funds. Finalized Audit and is looking that the reserve fund could be depleted in five years if things continue as they are.

Briley Township: The sidewalk plan is completed and is in need of any sidewalk ordinances any communities may have. Working on a Capital Improvements Plan and there are many festivals occurring.

Cheboygan County: The Tri- county 911(Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan counties) will cost around 10 million, looking for a way to fund it. Starting demolition of the Goldfront building and began construction on the addition to the jail.

City of Grayling: City of Grayling working on funding for the Northern Market. Will need to tear down the building versus rehab but will be able to repurpose wood from the old to the new building. The sewer –force main project is underway. Demolishing 2-3 downtown buildings.

Crawford County: Allot of building is going on. Discussed the many organizations and groups that use Camp Grayling for training such as Northern Strike, law enforcement from throughout the state and the need for Camp Grayling. County completed a new budget. Rising Tide program has identified child care as a critical need and working on the issue.

Mackinaw City- The SAW grant is completed. First ever Rosie the Riveter garden. Adopted a Resolution for a loan that would be at 2.9% interest for 40 years to be used for infrastructure; Water Tower Storage. Adopted the RRC Resolution and a resolution for casino revenue from the new slot machines being added. Former Bell's Fishery is now a business specializing in organic foods, smoked products and maple syrup products.

Montmorency County: County Courthouse repairs underway involving the ramp, steps and a new roof. Purchasing two new sheriff's cars. Settled the lawsuit and will be meeting with EDA to close the Revolving Loan Fund.

Oscoda County: The County extended bid period for courthouse construction project. Economic Development group, Vision Quest, prioritized broadband as the number one priority. Wages are finalized with a 2.1% increase. Looking into security upgrades.

Otsego County: Funding for the Iron Belle Trailhead project in the City of Gaylord is coming together. County is working with Townships on a couple building demolitions. County has entered into a reciprocal agreement between Crawford, Otsego and Cheboygan counties for a Building Inspector.

Presque Isle County: Completed the budget and ending the year in the black. County building has now only one entrance due to security concerns. Discussed possible millages on ballot for county operations. Friends of the Ocqueoc Camp received some grant funding for building repairs, produced a video on the history of the Camp and the facility is available to rent and can be found on Facebook. Also seeing allot of building going on in the county.

NE MI Consortium: Informed the Board that the new Medicaid legislation is now tied to jobs. Clients will be needing many services. There will be informational meetings on the Governor's Marshal Plan, July 10th in Alpena and August 29 in Grayling.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30. The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2018.