

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

**August 16, 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, John Wallace, Rick Anderson, Daryl Peterson, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Adam Poll, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Mary Ann Heidemann, Doug Baum and Dave Post

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski and Theresa Huff

Special Guest: Paul Bullock, Mecosta County Administrator

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the minutes of the June 21, 2018 meeting. D. Baum moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to approve the minutes as presented. All yes, motion carried.

Financial Report

D. Rekowski reviewed the July, 2018 financial statements. M. Heidemann moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to receive and file the July, 2018 financial report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Special Presentation

Paul Bullock, Mecosta County Administrator/Mid-Michigan Medical Examiners Group

P. Bullock provided a brief history of the West Michigan Forensic Pathology Services Authority and the construction of a morgue in Big Rapids. An Authority was established, with membership open to counties with the primary purpose of keeping costs down through sharing of costs. The budget to build the morgue was \$601,000; however they kept the cost down to \$597,000 and received a grant for it all. He provided a slideshow of the facility and pointed out various equipment features and the benefits of those chosen. The long term goal is to provide top of the line service at a controlled cost. He also discussed Mid MI Medical Examiners Group which Mecosta County contracts with, for the Medical Examiner and Medical Examiner Investigators (MEI). MEI training is provided by Mid MI Medical Examiners Group. Lisa Kaspriak, ME Administrator, is the contact person. D. Rekowski informed the Board of the Morgue Tour/Lunch that will be on August 22, 2018, a handout was provided.

President's Report

Regional Project Review: R. Heilman stated there was (0) Federal Grant projects for regional review; (0) State Grant projects for regional review; and (1) public notice.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): None

Director's/Staff Report

Administrative:

- A. FY 2019 Budget, discussed earlier in the meeting
- B. Kaye Krapohl/Contractor: Hasn't met the requirements of the contract, hasn't responded to communication attempts. The Contractor owes deliverables equal to six thousand dollars and D. Rekowski is in the process of taking legal action.

Regional Issue(s):

Regional Medical Examiner meeting/tour, tour will go as planned, the meeting that was going to be held on 8/22/18 will be rescheduled on a different date due to low RSVP numbers.

Regional Workshop

Provided a couple handouts from MSU Extension: Citizen Planner Program Cheboygan County and Planning & Zoning for Solar Energy Development.

Updates:

- A. Program Highlights for period February, 2018 through June, 2018 were provided.
- B. MDOT: Requested funds for:
 - Bike Maps –seeking funds to update
 - US -23 Management Plan Update, requires more money to update plan and website.
- C. Up North Trail Website: Developed a public-private partnership between the agencies and Blarney Broadcasting for promotion of the website. Currently have 1 advertiser and received first payment. Networks Northwest is fiduciary. The proceeds will go to maintain the website.
- D. RPI – FY2019 Grant request was released. There was a major typo \$45,000 in the legislation that stated funding up to \$45,000 vs \$245,000 for the Collaborative level. State is working on correcting the typo. Funding was added for Infrastructure Asset Management work.

2018 RPI Transition Plan was discussed. A joint meeting between the NEMCOG Board and the NE Consortium Administrative Board was determined to be the best method to discuss whether the agencies would like to move to the RPI Council level. It was proposed to schedule the joint meet at the September NEMCOG Board meeting with Strategic Policy Consultants.

E. Community Corrections FY2019 Grant was reduced by approximately half of what was requested. The whole state took a cut. Mid-year if numbers justify, a request for more funds can be made. Nichole Palmer will be attending the state meeting next week. The programs will operate as they currently are until the funds run out and will then request more funding.

F. JLUS – The Plan/study is out for Public Comment and can be found on NEMCOG's website. Recruiting interested individuals to serve on the JLUS Implementation Team.

G. MEDC:

- Requested \$90,000 for FY 2019 to develop Attraction Materials/Video for each county.
- Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC): The priority of RRC is to turn over redevelopment ready sites. MEDC staff working on promoting certified community redevelopment sites.

H. Solid Waste

- A request by Cheboygan County was received for a Solid Waste Plan Amendment.

New Contracts

- Hazard Mitigation Grant for 7 counties.
- Hawes Twp. Zoning.
- Beaver Creek Twp. Master Plan Update.
- Hillman Township/Village of Hillman Rec Plan Update

Grants Submitted

- NOI for MDEQ Nonpoint Source Funds for the implementation of the Ocqueoc Watershed Plan.
- Working on an EDA grant for a regional Logistics study.

Committee Reports

RPI Collaborative: D. Baum provided handouts for the August 16, 2018 meeting which includes MCAN survey results.

Finance Committee: There was a Finance Committee meeting held today just prior to the Board Meeting. Three main topics were discussed FY2018 Audit, Wage Increases and FY2019 Budget.

Audit: D. Post reported that the committee reviewed audit bids. The Alpena auditor, Straley, Lamp & Kraenzlein P.C. quoted 3 years at \$7, 250 each year. The Finance recommended to the Board approval of Straley, Lamp & Kranenzlein P.C. for three years at \$7,250.

D. Post moved, supported by R. Anderson to approve the auditor of Straley, Lamp & Kranenzleinn P.C. at the bid of \$7,250 for 3 years. A roll call vote was taken, 13 yes, 0 opposed, motion passed.

Wage Increase: D. Post reported that the Finance Committee discussed various options concerning wage/salary increases. The Finance Committee recommended to the Board a COLA increase on an annual basis, not to exceed 3%.

Discussion was then held by the Board over various options including merit raises and various types of COLA rates. After much discussion, D. Post moved, seconded by D. Peterson to approve a COLA increase on an annual basis, based on the State of Michigan Bureau Labor of Statistics current rate, not to exceed 3%. A roll call vote was taken, 9 yes, 4 opposed, motion passed.

FY2019 Budget: D. Post reviewed the budget handout from K. Cole. Budget was based on known contracts and carryover funds. Finance Committee recommended going with this budget as presented. D. Post moved, seconded by L. Olsen. A roll call vote was taken, 13 yes, 0 opposed, motioned passed.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

County Updates

Alcona County: Millages passed; all but one. Will put on November ballot with new language. Possible budget cuts being reviewed.

Cheboygan County: The Gold Front is being demolished.

City of Grayling: D. Baum discussed NMLETG: Hundreds of people attend training at Camp Grayling each year. This year there was a 300-400% increase in training costs. Police, etc. are cancelling training because their budget cannot support the higher cost. They've been told that the cost is set federally and is set globally. The group is asking NEMCOG for letter on behalf of Counties in the Region to send to State and Federal Legislatures to reconsider the cost. He requested the NEMCOG Director and NW Director to attend a meeting with legislators that is being scheduled. D. Baum moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to have D. Rekowski prepare a Resolution for the NEMCOG Board and municipalities in the region to consider. All yes, motion passed. D. Baum updated the Board on projects going on in the community: ICE Grant starts next week; canoe launch receiving bids; hope to break ground by the time snow comes; 4 development projects on the table and the Northern Market group is meeting on the 22nd.

Crawford County: All millages passed. Closed 1 union negotiations at 3% raise. R. Anderson is done as commissioner this year; chose not to run again. Grayling is growing by leaps and bounds.

Mackinaw City: School was painted. New Bridge Walk update in a couple of weeks. There will be zero bridge vehicle traffic. Can walk half way across the bridge and turn around or if you choose to walk the whole bridge, transportation to get back will be necessary. R. Heilman chose not to run for office again.

Montmorency County: New front entrances, millages passed, union negotiations will begin soon.

Oscoda County: Millages passed except for the EMS operations. Will put back on the ballot in November with the same language. Looking ahead at budget. Reviewing merit wage increases. Requested info. from Department heads. Benefits are a big expense. EMS struggling at best. There will be a whole new board next year. EDC Housing Director has given 90 days' notice.

Otsego County: All millages passed. Lost one Commissioner and Road Commissioner. Library structure is enclosed now and work is on schedule.

Presque Isle County: All millages passed. Board discussing putting millage on November ballot, electrical and building maintenance. There are two education classes: 9/17/18 MI Water School class in Traverse City for \$175. There is a free class on DEQ Permits in Charlevoix on 9/12. T. Huff will send out details. Informed the group that a Notice of Intent was submitted to the DEQ for Nonpoint Source Grant Funding. The request is for implementing portions of the Ocqueoc Watershed Plan with NEMCOG. Notification will be provided in a couple of weeks if selected to submit a full application for Nonpoint Source funding.

NE MI Consortium: The Development Board and RPI Collaborative Board combined their Board meetings in July and all felt it was very beneficial. Discussed the Marshal Plan that provides K-12 schools funding for innovative programs.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m... The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2018.