

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
September 21, 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 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

**Roll Call**

Governing Board

Members Present: Kathleen Vichunas, Cameron Habermehl, John Wallace, Rick Anderson, Jonathan Scheel, LaNita Olsen, Robert Pallarito, Carl Altman, Marisue Moreau, Robert Heilman, Bruno Wojcik, Mary Ann Heidemann, Doug Baum and Bill Wishart.

Staff Present: Denise Cline, Theresa Huff and Karen Cole

**Approval of Minutes**

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the August 24, 2017 meeting. C. Habermehl, supported by K. Vichunas to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

K. Cole reviewed the August, 2017 financial statements. C. Altman moved, supported by J. Scheel to receive and file the August 31, 2017 financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

**President's Report**

*Regional Project Review:* President R. Heilman presented (1) Federal Grant projects for regional review from previous month. There were (2) Public Notices and (0) "Other" (0) State Grant Applications. B. Wojcik moved to recommend approval of the regional project, supported by R. Anderson. All ayes, motion carried.

*MI Association of Regions (MAR):* R. Heilman noted a few handouts from the last MAR meeting.

**Director's Report: D. Cline**

D. Cline mentioned D. Rekowski was at a conference on Mackinaw Island.

She provided a brief update on the following:

- Audit – Still working on whether we will stay with current auditor or seek a new one.
- MEDC Grant - \$20,000
- New Projects: Krakow Township, Presque Isle County GIS, Wilber Township, AuSable Township, Albion. Currently there are 8 open Zoning Ordinance projects and 3 open Master Plans. A question was raised about having the staff to keep up with our region by doing work for outside the region. D. Cline said this year will be a test of what we can handle. Also, it was suggested to review our service rates for members, non-members and out of region.
- D. Rekowski is working on Hazard Mitigation Grants. Otsego County has agreed to be the fiduciary.
- MI Association conference is coming up. D. Baum, B. Wojcik, A. Poll, E. Podjaske and D. Rekowski will be presenting on Northeast MI at the conference.
- JLUS input sessions are coming up.

## **Committee Reports**

*Finance Committee:* None.

*RPI Collaborative:* D. Baum, Chair of the RPI Collaborative stated the meeting that was scheduled for 9/20/17 was rescheduled for 9/25/17. No report at this time.

## **Previous Business**

None.

## **New Business**

There are two resolutions for Chemical Bank, both are for the Alpena Resource Recovery Facility. R. Anderson made the motion to waive the reading of the resolutions, seconded by C. Habermehl, all ayes, motion passed.

Chemical Bank Checking Account Resolution: Motion was made by M. Heidemann to approve the resolution, seconded by K. Vichunas, a roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Chemical Bank Credit Card Resolution: Motion was made by R. Anderson to approve the resolution, seconded by R. Pallarito, a roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

NEMCOG FY2018 Board Meeting Schedule: D. Baum made a motion to adopt the NEMCOG FY2018 Board Meeting Schedule as presented, seconded by B. Wojcik, all ayes, motion passed.

## **County Updates:**

**Alpena Co.:** New jail millage for approximately \$20 million.

**Emmet Co.:** Looking for a new Administrator. 911 Tri-County is looking for Administrator. Transit looking for options, ½-1 mil EMS funds. Making some financial changes for separation of duties.

**MI Works!:** 10/1/17 Skilled Training Funds grants will be available. 10/6/17 Manufacturing Day through collaboration with RPI, high school students and adults.

**Oscoda Co.:** Should hear back from the Insurance Company soon about building loss. EMS will have first public meeting tomorrow, seeking additional millage.

**Otsego Co.:** EMS millage coming up. Washington DC conference was great and is holding true to their word about support for dealing with some issues.

**City of Gaylord:** Streetscape program celebration is today at noon. Discussed subpoena from Medical Marijuana group. Poor execution of serving subpoena, improper language in subpoena, City's attorney recommends that they just ignore it. Meeting will be on Monday at 7 p.m. City Council voting to opt in or out of Marijuana licensing.

The Mayor and City Council attended the MML conference in Holland, it was great, and a lot was learned.

**City of Grayling:** Today at noon, MISHDA director and MEDC to address middle housing issues. Project Rising Tide group is graduating. Mental health classes are being held. They're free to attend. Spread the word to your communities.

**Crawford Co.:** Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting coming up, it's budget time. Law enforcement is closely enforcing new speed limits, certain areas are really being watched and tickets are being issued. Childcare Fund has tested the county this year. Not funded well by the state which results in local funds to pay for it. Updated Board on local projects. Arauco: Lithuanian Furniture Company may build and will add 200-400 employees. Works with Arauco in South America, based out of Russia.

**Presque Isle Co.:** County has a 10 year contract with Motorola. \$1 million, to put radios in all emergency vehicles, coming to fruition soon. MSU Extension willing to assist with the endeavor to work on courthouse issues. County Treasurer submitted and County Board passed a resolution for Public Act 352 on tax delinquent properties..

**Briley Twp. /Atlanta:** DNR Trust fund grant was late; this has resulted in possible postponement of project until next spring. Provided an update to the Board on a DEQ permit to remove a post, old dock and Sidewalk Master Plan project.

**Cheboygan Co.:** Discussed cost of properties local governments acquire from back taxes. There may be a lot of expenses to demolish degraded properties. Water supply to Meijer has issues as to who will supply it.

**Alcona Co.:** New Veterans Councilor that works 7 hours a week has already experienced increased traffic. He is requesting more hours to handle the higher volume. Union negotiations have begun.

**M. Heidemann:** US23 Discovery Tour to take place the October 14<sup>th</sup> weekend. Updated the Board on Dams/water resource issues to be fixed or removed. Also, informed the group of a conference to be held on aquatic issues.

**Mackinaw City:** Mackinaw City Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance are coming along. Adopting a short term ordinance that has nothing to do with the Zoning Ordinance. Rental housing inspections; every 2 years, must post outside of each building who/where/what's allowed, etc. Adopted a begging ordinance. 3 transient merchant ordinances. The Water way Commission meeting will be held in Mackinaw City on October 6. Meeting with Tribal Chair, making a change with casino; may get some funds back. Also they may assist with Bell's property since they can get funding that the city can't.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting will be held on October 19, 2017.