

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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MEETING NOTICE

**NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Thursday, March 18, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Via GO-TO-MEETING

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Access Code: 862-254-013

AGENDA

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Roll Call
- III.** Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2021 Meeting
- IV.** Financial Report – February 28, 2021
- V.** President’s Report
 - A. Regional Project Review
 - B. Other
- VI.** Director’s/Staff Report
- VII.** Committee Reports
 - A. RPI Collaborative
 - B. Finance/Nominating Committee
 - 1. Board appointments
 - a. Alpena Township
 - b. Village of Lincoln
 - c. 1-Year member
 - C. Other
- VIII.** Previous Business
- IX.** New Business
- X.** County/Board Updates
- XI.** Public Comment
- XII.** Adjournment – next Meeting: April 15, 2021

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**MINUTES
OF THE
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
February 18, 2021**

Video-conference: Go-To-Meeting

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, John Wallace, Carey Jansen, Dawn Hubbard, Rob Pallarito, Carl Altman, Robert Heilman, Mark Becmer, Doug Baum, Kim Awrey, Adam Poll, and Scott McLennan

Staff Present: Diane Rekowski and Theresa Huff

Guest: Chelsea McConnell and Sara McCauley

Approval of Minutes

R. Heilman presented the Minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting. J. Wallace moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to approve the minutes as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Financial Report

K. Cole was not available to attend today's meeting, D. Rekowski reviewed the January 31, 2021 financial statements. D. Baum moved, seconded by R. Pallarito; to receive and file the January 31, 2021 Financial Report as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

Amended Budget and Budget Adjustments: The Finance Committee met on February 10, 2021. At that time, K. Cole reviewed the Amended FY2021 Budget to include in-kind and new programs. C. Altman moved, however, noting they were already approved by the Finance Committee, seconded by D. Karschnick to approve the Amended Budget and Budget Adjustments as presented. A roll call vote was taken, Yes all, motion carried.

Presentation

NEMCOG FY2020 Audit: Presented by Chelsea McConnell/Audit Manager for Straley, Lamp & Kraenzlein: C. McConnell explained how the audit was conducted 100% remotely this year and it went very smoothly. She stated there were only minor adjustments that needed to be made. She explained what the auditor's role is, and what they look for. She stated that NEMCOG had a healthy fiscal year while working through an unprecedented year of the pandemic. Staff did a great job and was easy to work with. J. Wallace commented that NEMCOG and staff are back on track where they should be and

doing a good job. R. Pallarito moved, seconded by C. Altman to approve the FY2020 Audited Financial Statements. A roll call vote was taken, Yes all, motion carried.

Election of Officers

C. Altman stated the it was decided at the February 10, 2021 Finance Committee meeting, that the Finance Committee will continue with same officers; R. Heilman as President, R. Pallarito as Vice President and A. Poll as Executive Board Member.

President: C. Altman nominated R. Heilman, no other nominations were made, and nominations were closed. J. Wallace moved, seconded by R. Pallarito to Nominate R. Heilman. Yes all, motion carried.

Vice President: C. Altman nominated R. Pallarito, no other nominations were made; and nominations were closed. J. Wallace moved, seconded by A. Poll to Nominate R. Pallarito, Yes all, motion carried.

Executive Board member: D. Baum nominated A. Poll, no other nominations were made, and nominations were closed. D. Baum moved, seconded by D. Karschnick to Nominate A. Poll. Yes all, motion carried.

Appointments to the Board: There are currently two vacant positions on the Board, a Village Representative and a Township Representative. The Finance Committee recommended the Village of Lincoln and Alpena Township. D. Rekowski will contact both to see if they are interested.

Reappointments to the board: 1 year appointments to the Board will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Director's/Staff Report

D. Rekowski wanted to thank Chelsea McConnell for conducting and presenting the audit. She stated that K. Cole and T. Huff do a great job.

MI Association of Regions (MAR): D. Rekowski updated the Board submitted the EGLE grant proposal for statewide implementation of Level One of the Integrated Asset Management program. Also discussed Policy matters on the MAR Board.

Projects

- Alcona County EDA grant was approved.
- Hazard Mitigation: FEMA approved one plan that was submitted. Now the others can be submitted as well.
- Beginning to update CEDS.
- Scrap Tire Grant application now available.
- Connected Nations Broadband expansion is going on.
- It was suggested that NEMCOG add Line 5 Support Resolution to the Agenda for the next Board meeting to get approved.

Committee Reports

RPI: No report.

Finance Committee: C. Altman recommended at the Finance Committee meeting that they receive the financials earlier to allow more time for them to be reviewed prior to the meeting. However, it was explained that all of the invoices have to be recorded before the financials can be completed to get a more accurate report. The process will have to remain as is.

Previous Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m. by R. Heilman. The next meeting will be March 18, 2021.

Program Highlights for:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

July, 2020 – February, 2021

Agency Operations

1. NEMCOG's consolidated Accounting with NE MI Consortium continues to provide efficiencies for both entities. Meetings are held to define processes and procedures for efficient and timely submittal of financials. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Karen Cole, Edie Kerr*
2. **COVID-19** required the office closure and staff to work remotely. Weekly staff meetings are held via videoconference to review programs, challenges and new funding opportunities. *Staff: Diane Rekowski*
3. **Attend** and represent Northeast Michigan at the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) bimonthly videoconference meetings. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Robert Heilman, President*
4. **Continue** to determine staff capacity needs and fill vacancies. Due to the stop-work order from DNR on grant contracts: Iron Belle Trail project, Trail Signage and Video project, replacements for the Community Development Planner position has been put on hold. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Denise Cline*
5. **Monitor** 2021 Budget. Communicated with funders on projects with insufficient funds for project work. Met with Finance Committee for review of agency financial statements. *Staff: Karen Cole, Diane Rekowski*
6. **Contracted** with the accounting firm, Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein P.C. for NEMCOG's FY 2020 Audit. *Staff: Karen Cole, Diane Rekowski*
7. **Fiscal Year 2020** audit was completed. *Staff: Karen Cole, Theresa Huff, Diane Rekowski*
8. **Oversee** Finance /Accounting Assistant. *Staff: Karen Cole, Theresa Huff*
9. **Grants: Submitted** and received: an EDA-COVID Response Grant for \$400,000 over two years; Regional Recycling Market Development Grant. Continue to work with communities on planning and zoning contracts as requested. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Denise Cline*

Agency Marketing

1. **Continued** weekly updates of new information on the NEMCOG website. *Staff: Denise Cline and Theresa Huff*
2. **Continued** to distribute marketing packets for promotion of NEMCOG, when appropriate. *Staff: Theresa Huff, staff*
3. **Consolidated Website:** discovernortheastmichigan.org continues to be updated with news and event listings. New plans, project information, resources and ordinances are continuously being added. Recycling pages updated. *Staff: Denise Cline*



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4. **Continue to respond to Community requests** for technical services to complete plans, grants, and zoning ordinances. *Staff: Denise Cline, Diane Rekowski, Nico Tucker*

6. **South Branch Township:** Staff is assisting South Branch Township with a Master Plan update. *Staff: Christina McEmber, Denise Cline*
7. **Krakov Township Zoning Ordinance:** The Zoning Ordinance was adopted. *Staff: Denise Cline*

Planning & Zoning



1. **Presque Isle Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff has completed draft Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 and reviewed them with the Planning Commission. Staff has drafted Article 4. *Staff: Denise Cline*
2. **Maple Forest Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff has completed draft Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 and is reviewing them with the Planning Commission. *Staff: Denise Cline*
3. **Clement Township Zoning Ordinance (Gladwin County):** Staff has completed draft Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and reviewed them with the Planning Commission. *Staff: Denise Cline*
4. **Beaver Creek Township Zoning Ordinance:** A public hearing was held and the Planning Commission recommended adoption. The Township Board postponed adoption until after new Board members took office. *Staff: Denise Cline*
5. **Hawes Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff is assisting with a zoning ordinance rewrite. All draft chapters are complete. *Staff: Denise Cline*

8. **Village of Pellston Zoning Ordinance:** Staff has completed the draft Zoning Ordinance and has reviewed the draft with the Planning Commission. *Staff: Denise Cline*
9. **Avery Township/Rust Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff has begun a joint zoning ordinance project with two townships. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are complete. *Staff: Denise Cline*
10. **Alpena Communities Joint Master Planning:** Staff is assisting Alpena County, Green Township, Ossineke Township, and Wilson Township in completing a joint Master Planning effort. The plan is currently out for public review for Alpena County, Green Township, and Wilson Township. It will be out for review for Ossineke Township at a later date. *Staff: Christina McEmber, Denise Cline*
11. **Hazard Mitigation Plans:** NEMCOG applied for and received a Hazard Mitigation Grant to update Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties. Staff is working on the plan updates after receiving review comments from FEMA. Oscoda County's plan has been submitted to the State and FEMA for approval pending county and local jurisdiction adoption. Plans for Alpena, Otsego, Crawford, and Montmorency Counties are pending while awaiting approval from the State and FEMA. Plans for Presque Isle and Alcona Counties are pending public hearings before submittal to the State and FEMA. *Staff: Christina McEmber*



12. Sanborn Township Brownfield Grant

Administration: Staff is assisting Sanborn Township with the Administration of a \$220,000 Brownfield Development grant. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Christina McEmber*

13. Onaway Master Plan:

Staff is assisting the City of Onaway through the RRC program with the writing of a new City Master Plan. *Staff: Christina McEmber*

14. Hillman Master Plan:

Staff is assisting the Village of Hillman in a Master Plan update, economic development plan, and downtown marketing plan. Background chapters, public input, goals, and economic development plan have been drafted. *Staff: Denise Cline, Christina McEmber*

15. Maple Forest Master Plan:

Staff is assisting the Township with creating a new Master Plan. *Staff: Denise Cline*

16. Grayling Township Master Plan:

Staff is assisting the Township with creating a new Master Plan. *Staff: Denise Cline*

17. Otsego County Quality of Life Survey:

NEMCOG has been assisting the County with developing an online Quality of Life Survey to gauge resident’s opinions on the factors that make Otsego County a desirable place to live. A draft survey was completed and edits have been incorporated. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

18. Frederic Township Master Plan:

Staff is assisting Frederic Township with the writing of a new Master Plan. Currently, the plan is out for review and a public hearing will be held in January 2021. *Staff: Christina McEmber*

19. AuSable Township Master and Recreation Plan:

Staff is assisting AuSable Township with updating their Master and Recreation Plan. Currently, the recreation portion of the plan is out for review and a public hearing will be held in January 2021 before it is submitted to the MDNR for review and approval. *Staff: Christina McEmber, Denise Cline*

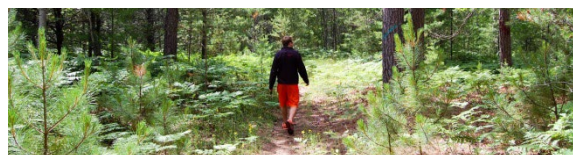
20. Planning Assistance:

Staff provides planning and zoning assistance when needed to the following communities:

1. City of Alpena
2. City Rogers City
3. City Grayling
4. City of Tawas City
5. City of West Branch
6. City of Harrisville
7. Village of Lincoln
8. Village of Hillman
9. Green Township
10. Wilson Township
11. Ossineke Township
12. West Traverse Township
13. Long Rapids Township

Staff: Denise Cline

Recreation Planning



1. Up North Trails:

Staff continues to provide updates to the Up North Trails website. An updated website was completed and is online. *Staff: Denise Cline, Diane Rekowski*



2. **City of Harrisville:** Staff has continued to help the City by developing required materials to administer their 2017 MNRTF Grant. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
3. **Iron Belle Trail:** Funding was renewed from the MDNR. Contracted with Emily Meyerson to facilitate to continue the community work with Iron Belle Trail (IBT) stakeholders in Crawford County, Roscommon County, Ogemaw County and Iosco County regarding IBT route planning, grant development, funding opportunities, general awareness of the IBT initiative, and local trail non-profit organizational development. *Staff: Emily Meyerson (contractor)*
4. **Rust Township:** Staff has continued to help the Township by developing required materials to administer their 2017 Recreation Passport Grant. Staff developed and submitted a second recreation Passport grant application which was also successful. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
5. **City of Alpena Recreation Plan:** Staff assisted the City in developing an updated recreation plan. The plan has been completed and is currently going through the adoption and MDNR submittal process. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
6. **Sanborn Township Recreation Grant:** NEMCOG assisted the Township with a Recreation Passport grant application to develop a small park with fishing pier on the Devils River in Ossineke. The grant was awarded by the MDNR and Staff has continued to assist with the grant administration process as needed. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
7. **Hillman Township Recreation Grant:** NEMCOG assisted the Township with a Recreation Passport grant application to make improvements to their

Tournament/Tiger Paw Park facility, including paved parking and pathway, nature trail, pavilion and press box for the ball fields. This was in partnership with Hillman Little League who NEMCOG assisted with applying for Little League grants to assist in funding the project. The application was unsuccessful and plans are underway to address MDNR comments to improve the grant score and resubmit. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

8. **Alcona County Recreation Plan:** Staff will be assisting the County with updating their recreation plan. An online survey was developed and is available for residents to complete. Staff has continued to work with the County to promote and distribute the survey to local residents. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Christina McEmber*

Solid Waste

1. **NEMCOG** continues to administer the Alpena Recycling Program. Exploring collaborative opportunities for processing and operation's enhancement. NEMCOG applied for and received a regional Recycling Market Development grant. Also working with EGLE on e-waste grants for holding events and purchasing permanent storage units. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Karen Cole, Theresa Huff*
2. Continued to monitor solid waste planning at the state level. Legislation has been re-introduced to revise planning. Changes the emphasis from material disposal to material management. *Staff: Diane Rekowski*
3. Application is being submitted for a 2021 Alpena County Scrap Tire grant. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff*

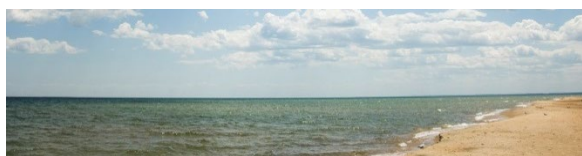


4. **Received Clean Sweep grant for FY 2021.** Funds will pay for Pesticides brought into the Regional HHW Facility in Alpena. *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Theresa Huff*

5. **Implementing Northeast MI e-Waste grant.** Funding was received to purchase e-waste storage facilities throughout the region. Working with Oscoda County on an E-waste Event and storage unit; upgrading Cheboygan County's e-waste storage area and looking for possible other permanent sites in Rogers City, Harrisville and at the MOASWMA landfill.

Staff: Diane Rekowski

Environmental & Water Resources



1. **Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative:** NEMCOG serves on the Leadership Team of the NE Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, a place-based educational program aimed at connecting schools and community partners through Great Lakes stewardship projects. NEMCOG assists with establishing the school-local government connection, website development, reviewing school grant funding requests, and the development of a database of projects based on community needs. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Denise Cline*

2. **Explored opportunities with the 2020 DEQ Nonpoint Source Grants and other state and federal grants.** *Staff: Diane Rekowski, Nico Tucker*

3. **Upper Black River Council:** NEMCOG assists the council by developing DEQ permit applications, performing stream surveys, and assisting in the oversight of the contracted work crew. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

Economic & Community Development



1. **NE MI Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)/MEDC Region 3 CDC:** Facilitate regular meetings of Collaborative. Video-conference meetings are held monthly with Region 3 EDC Directors and community partners for information sharing amongst partners.

RPI funding is no longer however many of the work on the strategies are continuing. The program has been extremely successful for NE MI. Many local and regional initiatives were funded through the program such as Vertical Asset Inventories for Broadband expansion; Mini-grants for Community & Economic Development; College Student Attraction Promotion; Support for Career Quest and Talent Tours for students in region; Regional Marketing Mini-grants; Thunder Bay River Watershed Blue Water Trail Assistance, creating a Talent Hub, and a Trail Town Economic Development Plan.

Integrated Asset Management, a component of the RPI is being continued through the State's Department of Management and Budget. *Staff: Denise Cline, Nico Tucker, Diane Rekowski, Consultants: Strategic Policy Consultants*



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2. **MEDC Funding:** The NE MI Local Foods Supply Chain Logistics Study is underway. Explorer Solutions, the Consultant, is conducting focus groups/individual conversations with area growers and producers to complete the analysis.

Staff attends weekly MEDC-CDC COVID-related videoconference meetings with Lansing MEDC staff. In addition, staff organizes and holds monthly Region 3: CDC Videoconference meetings with Economic and Community Development organizations in the region.

Staff: Diane Rekowski, Erich Podjaske, Denise Cline

3. **Regional Local Foods Project** was funded through RPI Funds and will continue with EDA-COVID Response funding. The work is contracted out to “Taste the Local Difference” (TLD). TLD staff, Molly Stepanski, from Hawks continues to increase demand and interest in producing, consuming and selling locally grown foods. *Contractor: Molly Stepanski*

4. **Joint Land Use Study:** Funding for implementation of the Joint Land Use Study was obtained. Staff is working with the Camp Grayling Community Council on (1) Grayling Area Transportation Study (2) Education and Outreach (3) Community Council assistance (4) Master Plans/Overlay Zones. Staff is working with the Alpena CRTC Community Council on items 2, 3, and 4. *Staff: Denise Cline, Nico Tucker, Christina McEmber*

5. Applied for and received an U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) three-year grant. The grant allows NEMCOG to continue its Community & Economic Development Technical Assistance to the region. *Staff: Diane Rekowski*

6. **EDA –COVID Response Grant:**

Applied for and received \$400,000 from EDA Cares Act funding for a two-year period to assist with COVID-related economic distress in the region. The funds are being utilized to provide a Covid Coordinator, staff assistance for local EDO’s and communities. *Staff: Diane Rekowski; Denise Cline; Erich Podjaske; Contractor: Sara McCauley, Strategic Policy Consultants*

GIS Services



1. **Montmorency County GIS:** Staff has continued to work with county equalization staff to address issues related to parcel overlaps, gaps etc. Staff continues to perform parcel splits/combines, fix problem areas, and provide general GIS technical assistance to the county. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
2. **Alcona Township GIS:** Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
3. **Alcona County GIS:** Staff has continued to make corrections to parcel data, and perform all property splits and combinations. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
4. **Alpena County GIS:** Staff has continued to make corrections to parcel data, and perform all property splits and combinations. *Staff: Nico Tucker*



5. **Alpena Township:** Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
6. **City of Alpena GIS Services:** Staff has entered a contract with the city to make corrections, updates, and data developments to the City parcel layer. Subdivision plat layers will also be developed. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
7. **Montmorency 911 Technical Assistance:** Staff continues to work on the update to the County's 911 computer mapping system. Staff continues to correct any outstanding issues, assist the County in assigning new addresses, and update the various GIS layers. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
8. **Montmorency Township GIS:** Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
9. **Hillman Township GIS:** Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
10. **Vienna Township GIS:** Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
11. **NEMCOG:** Staff has had numerous discussions with Township Assessors, County Equalization staff, other Regional Planning Agencies to discuss mapping services NEMCOG could provide and the possibility of establishing a regional GIS program. A survey has been drafted for dissemination to each county to determine current status.

NEMCOG provided mapping assistance to many township assessors. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

12. **Presque Isle County GIS:** Staff has continued to make corrections to parcel data layers, and develop a county-wide layer. Numerous problem areas have been redrawn. Work has continued on a platted subdivision layer with 240 subdivisions completed to date. Accuracy issues remain that will take time to solve. Staff has begun developing parcel section maps for most areas of the County where accuracy issues have been corrected. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
13. **West Branch GIS:** Staff has provided one half day GIS training session to City staff. Training will continue to be provided as needed, up to 4 full-day or 8 half-day sessions. NEMCOG has also completed the development of updated parcel and subdivision platted lot layers. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

Transportation Program



1. **Asset Management:** Due to the COVID-19 the federal aid PASER ratings were suspended for the 2020 season. Prior to the effort being suspended the ratings for Cheboygan County were completed.

Staff assisted Alpena, Oscoda and Presque Isle counties with rating their local roads. Staff rated the local roads on the behalf of Otsego County. Alcona and Montmorency counties and the City of Rogers City local roads will be rated in 2021.



Provided onsite assistance and training to several agencies on RoadSoft and the Laptop Data Collector.

Staff queried traffic crash reports at the request of several local road agencies.

Staff took part in several training webinars regarding local road agency requirements for transportation asset management plans. Staff has assisted road commission staff with exporting and analyzing data to be used in their Asset Management Plans.

Staff responded to questions from local road agencies regarding the IRT/ADARS reporting process and requirements. NEMCOG completed the IRT reporting on behalf of the Village of Posen, Village of Hillman, and City of Rogers City. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

2. **Rural Task Force:** Staff responded to numerous phone calls and emails from local agencies with questions regarding task force procedures and target allocations. Responded to requests from several citizens of the region for information on the RTF process. Provided information to each regarding RTF procedures, funding sources, funding and project requirements, and provided the RTF 9 STIP and Illustrative list of projects. Public notices of the RTF meeting were prepared and posted. Updated balance sheet, an agenda, and other materials were prepared for the meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the annual fall meeting was held as both an in-person and virtual meeting. Staff attended the October 23 meeting and recorded meeting minutes, and documented project additions, deletions, and changes. Project data sheets were completed for all project additions and changes and sent to local road and transit agencies for approval and signature. All project changes were programmed into JobNet. The RTF9 meeting minutes and other supporting documents were submitted to

MDOT Planning. Assisted local RTF agencies by submitting project change requests as received. Reviewed potential earmarks to be repurposed and assisted road commission in tracking the true status of the old earmarks.

Staff: Nico Tucker

3. **Small Urban Area Program:** NEMCOG continues to work with the respective small urban area representatives and the Small Urban Program Coordinator to make corrections to the priority project lists. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
4. **Transportation Work Program:** Attended meetings and provided information on planning and/or funding options for non-motorized facilities to several local governments.

Staff provided Complete Streets information to local Townships upon request.

Staff reviewed information regarding the State Long Range Plan, Michigan Mobility 2045. Notices of public involvement opportunities were forwarded to stakeholders and posted on the NEMCOG website.

NEMCOG staff discussed the Alpena County Bagley Bridge replacement project with road commission staff. Staff worked with the Alpena and Gaylord Small Urban Program committees to perform a swap of funding years so small urban funds could be applied to the bridge project.

Funding was obtained through the JLUS Implementation project to update the Grayling Area Transportation Study. Staff has prepared and published an RFP. Consultant proposals were scored and a consultant chosen. A consultant contract was developed and executed. Staff has continued to obtain needed data, provide input, and oversee the study update process.



Staff reviewed and updated transportation language and traffic volume information for several township and county master plan updates.

Submitted geographic framework corrections on behalf of local road agencies.

NEMCOG staff has continued to be contacted by utility companies looking for ROW data to aid in broadband deployment efforts. Staff provided the appropriate MDOT ROW maps, or forwarded the appropriate road agency contact information to the companies.

Staff attended several meetings to discuss TAP and other funding options and planning efforts to extend the bike path in the Alpena area. Staff arranged and attended virtual meetings to discuss various aspects of the project. NEMCOG will continue to assist in the coming months.

NEMCOG staff assisted Tuscarora Township, Cheboygan County, in developing a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development grant to install additional boat docks in their Marina Park. If funded, the boat dockage would provide area residents and visitors more, and much safer, docking along the Inland Waterway and North Central State Trail. The grant was awarded.

Staff assisted the Village of Hillman in reviewing and mapping of Village easements.

Staff continued to respond to numerous questions from local officials and residents of the region regarding transportation planning, funding, and project selection and implementation processes. Appropriate information or contacts were provided in all instances. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

5. **US 23 Heritage Route:** NEMCOG provides coordination and technical assistance to the Heritage Route teams in Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Iosco, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan Counties as well as the US 23 Management Council. Marketing: Staff has assisted in coordinating the website development and marketing efforts. Promotional materials were created as part of the National Scenic Byways grant including a map guide of Historic Sites, a map guide of trails, a waterproof flip guide book for the Huron Blueways, and a regional guidebook. In addition, a reprint of the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail was completed. *Staff: Denise Cline*

6. **Received MDOT funding for updating the NE MI Non-Motorized Maps.** The Northeast Michigan and Northwest Michigan Road and Trail Bicycling Guides have been printed and distributed. Extra boxes are available for distribution. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Denise Cline*



Community Corrections

1. **Northeast Michigan Community Corrections** has been running programs in four counties within the region. Staff has been working remotely with the courts and jail systems during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continuity of services. Thinking Matters has been suspended in the County Jails pending reopening to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Based Case Management is actively being utilized as a remote service to connect felony offenders to substance



abuse treatment, employment and education assistance services. The Pretrial Supervision Program remains successfully in operation in Otsego County. Supervision is provided by the Pretrial Supervision Case Manager remote while the participant out on bond and engaging with the public.

The Community Corrections Program has recently integrated the Court Fact Remote Reporting system into Case Management and Pretrial Supervision programs. Remote reporting provides defendants with additional means to navigate access to the court system as

policies change to adhere to social distancing guidelines. We strive to provide best practice standards to promote pretrial justice and ensure court appearance and public safety.

Alternative programming is being explored in order to address the adapting needs of the offender population within the Northeast Region. *Staff: Nichole Scott*

Respectfully submitted by Diane Rekowski

