



**COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM  
JANUARY 24, 2013  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS & GUESTS** – Brian Niksch, Jan Dick, Eric Ehn, Tim Morgan, John Novacich, Jennifer Gadzala, Alex Brown, Chris Moore, Don Parker, Debbie Scurlock, Craig Zandstra, Kevin Crawford, Peter Kohut, Craig Hendrix, Brenda Scott Henry, Leslie Phemister, Jerry Rosko, Michele Bollinger, Matt Keiser, Jenny Orsburn, Jake Dammerell, Chris Nesper, Jan Orlich

**GO TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS** - Jim Mandon, Erik Sprenne, Chris Meyers

**STAFF** - Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, Stephen Sostaric, Bill Brown, Joe Exl

Chairman Dick called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. with self-introductions.

## **PED**

### **SOUTH SHORE TRAILS -**

The annual meeting and awards ceremony was moved from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>. The new date lines up with the schedule of one of the honorees. The event is 6:30 p.m. at Hammond marina and is \$5.00 or free if South Shore Trails membership dues are paid. The next meeting will be January 30<sup>th</sup> and planning for spring activities that include bike week, ride of silence, and trails day will begin.

### **TAP FUNDING UPDATE**

The funding allocated to NIRPC has been determined to be \$990k. The funding may have to be divided with around \$200k to LaPorte County and the balance to Porter and Lake Counties. Final guidance has yet to be received from INDOT. Further details will be provided as they become available.

### **TAP ENVIRONMENTAL/WILDLIFE APPLICATION DRAFT – JOE EXL, NIRPC**

A small working group from the Environmental Management Policy Committee was formed to review and update the environmental project scoring portion of the TAP application. Only slight changes were made in the general application scoring portion. The major changes were made in the remainder of the environmental portion of the application and include the addition of a new scoring category C: Development: Vegetation Management worth a maximum of 40 points. Joe reviewed the changes and additions. Joe reviewed the changes to the applications proposed for approval by the EMPC with the Committee. The changes will be submitted to the EMPC at the February 7 meeting for approval. Mitch noted this could be the most comprehensive TAP application to date. The other portion of the application was already approved by the TPC at their January meeting and should be formally accepted by the NIRPC Commission in February. The funding for the environmental and historical portion is 10% of the 990k allocated to NIRPC. Any environmental projects submitted will be reviewed by the EMPC or a sub-committee with presentation to the EMPC.

## **PEDAL**

### **FEATURE PRESENTATION: Complete Streets Complete Networks**

When the complete streets program was developed it was discussed to develop design guidelines. Active Transportation Alliance has produced a manual outlining the guidelines which is available online and in hardcopy. Mitch overviewed the NIRPC Complete Streets Design Guide with the group which was modeled after Central Ohio MPO's Policy. Part of the implementation of complete streets was to develop a toolkit and the Active Transportation Alliance document is an exhaustive analysis of complete streets design. The website where the manual may be obtained is [www.atpolicy.org](http://www.atpolicy.org) and is a public domain document. Although it is an analysis of complete streets practices and designs that are currently employed in the United States it does not mean INDOT will recognize all of them. Mitch noted it is the intention of NIRPC on the outset of any adoption of policy to make it clear which standards do conflict with current INDOT manual requirements, but these are still federally acceptable standards. An overview of the Manual chapters was given by Mitch. The initial proposal by NIRPC staff is to adopt the Active Transportation Alliance Complete Streets Manual as a guidance policy to guide complete streets design in northwest Indiana. Mitch would like everyone to take about a month to review and submit ideas and suggestions before voting to adopt the guide as NIRPC's formal complete streets design policy and would like to adopt in time to guide LPA's before next STP, HSIP, & CMAQ cycles. Adoption has to be approved by 3PC, TPC and then the NIRPC Commission. Secondary actions include trainings, seminars, etc.

## **MARQUETTE GREENWAY MICHIANA PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE**

There is the probability of a partnership with entities in LaPorte and Berrien counties. There is a lot of support in Berrien County working with the Pottawatomie fund and trails are one of their major focuses. Hopefully the first meeting will be next month. Updates will be given as progress is made.

## **PADDLE –**

### **NWI PADDLING ASSOCIATION – UPDATE**

Mitch reported he attended the NWIPA rendezvous. Many awards were given and there was a good turnout.

## **GRAB BAG**

### **A. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES, CONCERNS, GRIPES & A BIT OF FUN**

The new NIRPC website and the NIRPC 2040 CRP were shown to Committee.

### **B. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (UPCOMING RIDES, EVENTS, ETC.)**

No reports given.

### **C. CORNUCOPIA '13 SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, APRIL 25 – PORTAGE!**

### **D. NEXT 3PC MEETING IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00.