



**COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM
FEBRUARY 28, 2013
MINUTES**

MEMBERS & GUESTS – Bruce Spires, Jenny Orsburn, John Siebert, Peter Kohut, Matt Keiser, Michele Bollinger, Eric Ehn, Craig Zandstra, Alex Brown, A J Monroe, Chris Moore, Don Parker, Jerry Rosko, Nancy Adams, Dwayne Williams, William Pauley, John Jokuntas, Mary Jane Butz, Mary Catterlin, Amy Lukas, Jen Stahl, Robert Csanyi, Ray Joseph, John Dudek, John Mitchell, Zeta Allen, Bob Allen, Jan Orlich, Ed Burns, Doug Stukey, Katie Lemon, Christopher Meyers, Dan Plath, Leslie Phemister, Mark Heintz

STAFF - Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, Stephen Sostaric, Eman Ibrahim

Vice Chair Bruce Spires called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. with self-introductions.

PED

SOUTH SHORE TRAILS - UPDATE

Annual kickoff and awards ceremony honoring people and projects will be held March 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Hammond marina. There is a \$5 cover or attendance is free when paying \$20 annual membership. May is bike month and activities are being planned promoting non-motorized transportation including bike to work.

TAP/STP/HSIP APPLICATION & FUNDING - UPDATE

The new revisions for the TAP program have been approved by the NIRPC Commission. No date has been given by INDOT for TAP release. The biggest changes in the application were in the environmental community which is now responsible for programming their portion of the funding which is about \$100k. Total funding is around \$1.1m and has yet been determined if it will be one lump sum or divided among the urban areas with Lake and Porter Counties together and La Porte County separate. The STP Committee established funding targets and allocated \$800k for bike and pedestrian projects for the next two years. The Creating Livable Centers program received \$400k also programmed for 2 years. HSIP application will be released March 1, and will be due around the last week of March. The STP deadline is March 25 for projects. As in the past, it is expected that 3PC will rank bike and pedal projects to be forwarded on to the TPC and eventually the Commission for final programming.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: GPS ENHANCED 911

Bill Pauley presented a real life situation which occurred in Porter County and the Indiana Dunes State Park in January of 2012. Even though the person died instantly there were delays in getting an ambulance to the specific location within the Park. Although 911 operators are very efficient when a caller can give an accurate street address or mile marker, when the address is unknown or a remote location delays may occur. One solution to help prevent delays involves installing emergency signs with GPS locations which are entered into the 911 database. 30 small yellow reflective emergency signs have been installed at key locations within the Dunes State Park. The signs also include the park office phone number. Anticipated locations of installation for the Calumet Trail, Dunn's Bridge, Sunset Hill Farm, Brookdale, and Brincka Cross Gardens were shown. Bill noted Nancy Adams has been a great help in this endeavor. Areas where signs have already been installed or future possible applications include Indiana Dunes, Porter County Parks, Portage City Parks, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Prairie Duneland Trail, Chesterton Town Parks, Valparaiso City Parks, Porter Town Parks, Porter County Expo Center, Porter County Airport, South Shore Commuter Line. The challenge is to find parks or trails or other amenities that need this service and if there is interest. William Pauley or Raymond Joseph can be contacted for assistance. The cost of each sign is roughly \$15-\$25.00. 911 operators present indicated it is very easy to implement these locations into their service and when calling from a cell phone the GPS location that pops up from the cell can also be matched with the markers. The La Porte County 911 representative indicated in 2012 a similar beach map plan was established by Michigan City Parks using a colored flag system and Lakeshore Drive signage. All signage is in English and Spanish and the flag colors are translated in Spanish on the 911 side.

PADDLE –

NWI PADDLING ASSOCIATION – UPDATE

NWIPA is working on getting committees up and going and coming up with their plans for 2013. A few of the plans include expanding the Little Calumet water trail. It has been opened from Mineral Springs Road to Waverly and in partnership with Porter and Chesterton will continue all the way to St. Pats site. Work is continuing with the National Park Service on completing environmental assessments within the Park with the end goal to open the Little Cal through the park. Work has been done around Deep River to develop it into a water trail. For now an 8 mile section from Lake George to the Deep River Outdoor Learning Center is being targeted. The Hobart MS4 district has agreed to put in grant application for signage on the water trail. The trail dedication for the Deep River Water Trail is scheduled for June 27. A \$10k grant was awarded to NWIPA from the Michigan City Community Enrichment

Corporation to bring Wilderness Inquiry back to the area this year. The goal for this year is to put 1,000 kids in the water as part of this program. The Michigan City Coastal grant went through for the first ADA access point at Hansen Park. Hopefully construction can begin at the end of July. Everything has been finalized to open the Kankakee River Water Trail camping site in La Porte County. Work will begin in March with the goal to open this paddling season. Shirley Heinz Land Trust acquired the former Girl Scout camp Meadowbrook property and NWIPA will have their office there as well. There is storage for their boats and equipment and room for classes and workshops to be held. NWIPA will have a booth and be speaking at Canoeopia in March. Five new board members were elected.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: LAKE MICHIGAN IN A DUGOUT

Amy Lukas and Mary Catterlin received the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association's Paddlers of the Year Award for circumnavigating Lake Michigan. Mary wanted a boat of her own and decided to make her own by digging out a cottonwood tree that started at about 2,600 lbs. The boat, named Makeba, took about 4 years to finish and ended up being 11 feet. After testing the boat before the journey they decided a sail and outriggers needed to be installed. The boat was conditioned two weeks before their July 1 launch date. Amy and Mary shared stories and pictures from their experience which was 93 days and 1,200 miles total. The Makeba and their story will be featured at the Porter County Museum of History. Mary and Amy are hoping to make a short documentary about their journey.

PEDAL

FEATURE PRESENTATION: HSIP Presentation

Stephen Sostaric noted a couple of things to be funded in this cycle of HSIP specifically deal with pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructures. There will be a Lake and Porter County solicitation and a separate La Porte County solicitation. The funding amount is a little over \$4m. The projects are divided into two categories with high crash location projects receiving 75% of the funding and low cost high impact projects, which is where pedestrian and bicyclist projects fall, receiving 25%. Currently this is Lake and Porter only and La Porte will be handled after seeing what projects are submitted. The Local Highway Safety Improvement Program project selection guidance document from INDOT outlines details and gives information on the program and can be found on their website in the safety section. INDOT's low cost, high impact project application electronic form will be emailed out by Stephen. Seven types of projects are eligible to be used for this form but the two that are important in the ped and bike area are Type 5 and 6 which are installing pedestrian push button and countdown heads on a public road approach traffic signal and installing pedestrian crosswalk warning signs, flashing beacons, special pavement markings and refuge areas on a public road approach. There are new MUTCD sign standards and these HSIP funds can be used for regulatory and warning signs. In both HSIP categories priority will be given to locations with a history of fatal and incapacitating injury crashes. A minimum of three continuous years of crash data and "reasonably accurate" traffic data is needed. The LPA should also have a method to demonstrate that the project has been prioritized. The stakeholder group decided to evaluate the high crash locations projects against each other using the benefit cost ratio with bonuses awarded for sites that are one of the top 25 crash locations for the project county as identified in the NIRPC 2040 CRP or one of the top 10 crash locations by type. The low cost high impact projects are a 90/10 match and the maximum project cost for Lake and Porter County is \$100k. The due date for applications will be around the end of March.

MARQUETTE GREENWAY MICHIANA PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE

There still has not been a meeting at this point. More to come next month

COMPLETE STREETS COMPLETE NETWORKS – DESIGN GUIDELINES APPROVAL

Mitch noted based on comments received, proposed amendments will be added to the Complete Streets Manual. The Complete Streets Policy that was previously adopted determined to provide a toolkit. The Complete Streets Manual brings together those guidelines. The guidelines are not mandated but what can be done. The four proposed amendments were presented by Mitch for approval by the Committee to be presented along with the Complete Streets Manual for approval by TPC. With no questions or comments, Vice Chair Spiers asked for a show of hands in support of recommendation for the guidelines to be sent to the TPC. The majority voted to recommend the Manual with proposed amendments to the TPC for approval.

GRAB BAG

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

None

B. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (UPCOMING RIDES, EVENTS, ETC.) –

None

C. CORNUCOPIA '13 – SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY APRIL 25TH – PORTAGE - WOODLAND PARK

D. THE NEXT 3PC MEETING IS MARCH 28, 2013. STP projects will be reviewed at the meeting and DNR will be here to talk about two upcoming programs.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:57.