



**COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM
FEBRUARY 23, 2012
MINUTES**

MEMBERS & GUESTS – Jan Dick, Tim Morgan, Mark O’Dell, Dave Byers, Don Parker, Walter Lenckos, Bob Huffman, Jenny Orsburn, Craig Zandstra, Craig Hendrix, Jerry Rosko, Brian Niksch, Stan Dostatni, Brian Ralstin, Lawrence Turnquist, John Novacich, A.J. Monroe, Ray Joseph, Matt Keiser, James Mandon, A.J. Bytnar, Mark Heintz, Peter Kohut, Shawn Kelly

STAFF - Mitch Barloga, Steve Strains, Stephen, Sostaric, Joe Exl, Meredith Stilwell

Jan Dick called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with self-introductions.

PED

SOUTH SHORE TRAILS - UPDATE. The first part of a two-part strategic planning session was held on January 28 and plans are being made for what to do in the coming year.

CORNUCOPIA ’12 - Cornucopia ’12 is April 26 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Lost Marsh Country Club in Hammond. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Mitch thanked Mayor Tom McDermott and the City of Hammond who is providing the meeting room free of charge. Additional sponsors are being sought and should contact Mitch if interested.

PEDAL

NWI GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS MAP 2011 – UPDATE ~ Mitch Barloga

The first rough draft was received and is being worked on. The first draft of the final map will possibly be out by March 1 and uses GIS based maps that include water trails as well as highlighted short and long-term proposed trails. Public hearings and comment will be throughout March. Due to ample sponsorship, there will possibly be 125,000 copies for distribution and will also be available on the NIRPC website.

NIRPC TE APPLICATION REVIEW & FUNDING SPLIT - DISCUSSION

There are rumors that the next TE cycle will be in March 2012. TE11 was originally to have two application cycles, but ended up only having one. The application and funding split were revised during the first 2011 cycle with the understanding they would be revisited and reviewed annually going forward. The application which was modified last year was examined and it was noted that the wording in regard to NIPSCO property purchases had been changed. The portion of application regarding the progressive planning bonus was reviewed and Mitch indicated he would like to see all projects receive these points and will prepare a document to be sent out to 3PC for approval defining what is proper progressive planning. It was indicated that the application would need significant changes to accommodate applications for trail maintenance since those projects cannot compare to trail building projects. It was commented to not reinvent the system and while maintenance is a priority, if TE is not the proper vehicle for funding there should be a push instead for a simple designated fund for maintenance funding.

Revisions to the priority corridor map were addressed by Mitch. Modifications included additional trails, as well as trail priority and name changes. When the criteria used to determine the changes was questioned, Mitch indicated it was mostly based on buildability and population. Steve Strains questioned if these changes were approved by just by 3PC and if as part of the 2040 plan they should not be put out for public comment since they are a change in the plan. Mitch indicated that in the past the changes have been a 3PC decision and approval process, but can be put forth for public comment and further as a recommendation to the NIRPC board for approval. It was decided to table the discussion, however the issue was revisited later in the meeting and Don Parker moved to accept the recommended changes as an Administrative Amendment to be presented to the Transportation Policy Committee. Mark O’Dell seconded the motion. After the motion, Walter Lenckos raised strong objections on behalf of Porter County and stated he did not believe the process for changes had been transparent and would not want to vote on a document that was being presented to him for the first time. He

requested the work that led to the changes be provided for review. In response, Don Parker requested him motion and Mark O'Dell requested his second to the motion be deferred and the subject be revisited at a later time.

Discussion began on the funding split between trail projects and the other category. With the belief there would be two cycles of funding for 2011, a 50/50 split was decided for the first cycle with the understanding that the second cycle would be an 80/20 split, but the second cycle never occurred. It was indicated that there weren't really good environmental projects last time and Joe Exl and Jenny Orsburn voiced that the 2011 cycle was the first opportunity given for environmental projects and of course there were hiccups, and better quality projects would be looked for. The EMPC needs to review and clarify what types of projects are being looked for and possibly categorize projects like the trail prioritization on the application. Funding splits of 60/40, 70/30, and 80/20 were suggested and discussed with the indication from the 3PC that an 80/20 split was preferred. The discussion ended with the decision to review again after the information has been taken to the EMPC to look at. It will be presented with the understanding that there was an 80/20 flavor from 3PC and it would be worth mentioning that the second round of TE11 was supposed to be heavier weighted to trails.

Chairman Dick broached the subject of overmatching for projects and after a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of increasing or adding bonus points, it was noted this portion of the application was reviewed last year and the 5% = 5 point and 10% or greater = 10 points for overmatch was decided upon. The conclusion was to leave the overmatch section as is for now.

COMPLETE STREETS VIDEO: A complete streets video highlighting examples and advantages of complete streets was viewed and included interviews with the public. Videos of bad bike lane examples were also viewed.

PADDLE –
NWI PADDLING ASSOCIATION –

In the absence of Dan Plath, no update was given.

GRAB BAG
STATEWIDE GREENWAYS FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING –

National walkability expert Dan Burden will address values of trails in Indiana, as well as share best practices from throughout the country. He will also share his observations about opportunities for better built environments and illustrate opportunities in Indiana to create connected communities that support active living.

CORNUCOPIA '12: THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012 – Location: Lost Marsh in Hammond

THE NEXT 3PC MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 22, 2012

Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.