

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN
April 18, 2013
Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Dave Uran called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a quorum for an Executive Board meeting.

Commissioners present included Roosevelt Allen, Jr., John Bayler, Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Christine Cid, Tom Clouser, Anthony Copeland, Jon Costas, Dave Decker, Jeff Dekker, Stan Dobosz, Don Ensign, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Blair Milo, Diane Noll, Pamela Richard, Bob Schaefer, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, James Snyder, Joe Stahura, Greg Stinson, James Ton, Dave Uran and George VanTil.

Others present included Robert Alderman, Maggie Byrne, Dorreen Carey, Jim Earl, LuAnn Franklin, Dan Gardner, Val Gomez, Katie Kukielka, Carol Kuznicki, Sergio Mendoza, Justin Mount, David Nellans, Jim Nowacki, Shirley Patrick, Ron Shimizu, Joe Simonetto, Rebecca "Sis" Williams and David Wright.

Staff present included Ty Warner, David Hollenbeck, Angie Hayes, Gabrielle Biciunas, Joe Exl, Sarah Geinosky, Eman Ibrahim, Jack Eskin, Kathy Luther, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Bill Brown, Jody Melton, and Mary Thorne.

Staff Service Award: Ty Warner presented an award to Bill Brown for 30 years of service with NIRPC.

Report of the Chair: Chairman Dave Uran had no report and deferred to the committees.

Presentations:

Lake Michigan Coastal Program: Sergio Mendoza overviewed the 10 year old program offering technical assistance to protect, preserve, manage and plan for coastal areas. Since its inception, over \$10 million dollars have been distributed for various coastal projects. Dorreen Carey spoke on special projects and stormwater management for rural, urban and agricultural, working with local, state and federal partners to insure the coastal and habitat requirements of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Coastal Program are being met. Maggie Byrne overviewed the grant funding program available to local entities.

Lee Botts announced a region-wide project to produce a documentary on *Indiana's Shifting Sands*, which references the major environmental changes going on in this region. Several anniversaries are coming in 2016: the Bicentennial of Indiana, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, the 50th Anniversary of the Dunes National Lakeshore, and the 90th anniversary of the Indiana Dunes State Park. A major restoration revolution has taken place as well as changes in industrial practices which have resulted in less pollution. The documentary video will be completed shortly.

Governor's Appointment – Dave Hollenbeck announced the appointment of Representative Ed Soliday to the NIRPC Executive Board.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Bob Schaefer and a second by Roosevelt Allen, Jr., the minutes of the March 21 Executive Board meeting were approved.

Environmental Management Policy Committee: Kevin Breitzke reported on the expansion of the committee's mission to include the MS4 water quality program championed throughout Lake and Porter counties. Kathy Luther presented an overview of the mandated program from its inception through the changes to date. The changes included a reduction in budget, staff reassignment and an ala carte scope of work. Matt Lake added that

the water quality programs have evolved throughout the state to accommodate growing communities while still providing a level of service to all communities involved.

Finance & Personnel Committee:

- Blair Milo participated in the Exit Conference with State Board of Accounts. Angie Hayes and staff provided the 9th year in a row with no findings.
- A budget amendment for \$5,000 in outside donations adds a new grant to Partners for Clean Air for air quality public education. On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board approved the budget amendment.
- Two procurement recommendations were proposed for public transit scheduling software and computers for a total cost not to exceed \$216,000 and a public transit route study for the City of Valparaiso's V-Line service for a total cost not to exceed \$100,000. On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Don Ensign, the Executive Board approved the procurement recommendations.
- The deadline for submission of the RFP for the office space lease to NIRPC is April 26. The Finance & Personnel Committee will hold an Executive Session on May 8 at 1 p.m. in the NIRPC Auditorium to review the RFPs received. All members of the commission are welcome to participate. An Executive Session of the NIRPC Full Commission will meet on May 23 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC to discuss the top ranking proposals received for the lease. The public meeting for regular business will follow. No presentations will be scheduled.

Legislative Committee: A full report on the Legislative Committee will be given next month by Tom McDermott and Jon Costas after the General Assembly session ends.

Transportation Policy Committee: Stan Dobosz reported on the Transportation Policy Committee meeting held on April 9, which included a presentation by Steve Strains and Hubert Morgan on the Public Participation Plan and a presentation from INDOT and Parsons Brinkerhoff on the proposed Illiana Corridor project. INDOT submitted a written request for inclusion in the 2040 Plan. The project team would like to see the Illiana in the 2040 CRP in October of this year. The stakeholder groups met to recommend project selections for the next TIP. The air quality conformity work is about to begin. The next TPC meeting is May 14 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

Land Use Committee: Eman Ibrahim reported the committee is working on the Livable Centers Initiative program to define all of the livable centers in our communities. A new funding program, Creating Livable Centers will support projects linking land use and transportation and transit-oriented development. \$405,000 will be available in 2014.

Pathway to 2040 Committee: Jim Ton chaired the meeting on April 11. Presentations included non-motorized and tourism, and redevelopment, both by Mitch Barloga. Staff reports included the Land Use Committee, the Urban Core Subcommittee and current implementation initiatives. A report on the Illiana was given by Ron Shimizu from Parsons Brinkerhoff. The committee will meet on Thursday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

INDOT: Robert Alderman of INDOT reported on the development of the Lake Michigan Shore. The waterfront is the most underused in Northwest Indiana. Work is being done on the bridge on Riley Road in East Chicago and also Indianapolis Boulevard. Jennifer Alander is INDOT's Customer Service Manager. In 2014, INDOT will focus on higher end areas.

A status report on the Illiana Corridor was given by Jim Earl. The Tier 2 corridor study phase will better define the B3 corridor. The projected benefits to Indiana would include better travel time savings, job creation and economic development. Public meetings were scheduled for April 16 at the Peotone High School in Illinois from 5 pm to 8 pm and tonight, April 18 at Lowell Middle School in Indiana, also from 5 pm to 8 pm. A public hearing will be held in the fall of 2013. It is expected that NIRPC would take action to include the project in their 2040 plan by

the October 2013 Full Commission meeting. The letter from INDOT for inclusion of the Illiana into NIRPC's 2040 Plan was recently received and was read by the commissioners. Discussion followed. Road closures are still being analyzed. Kevin Breitzke invited the team to present at the Environmental Management Policy Committee meeting on May 2 to discuss road, waterway and wetland crossings. For more information, go to the website at www.illianacorridor.org.

Northwest Indiana Economic Development District: Chairman Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the last CEDS meeting was held March 14. The last CEDS Executive Board meeting scored projects with each grant in the amount of \$2.5 million requiring a 50% match. The deadline is June 13. The CEDS Plan will be released to the public on April 30 and posted on NIRPC's website. The planning grant closed out, there is \$25,000 in assets, no debt, and an audit will be performed and expensed for 2013. The EDA is currently operating under a continuing resolution. Chairman Allen will meet tomorrow with Ty Warner and Don Koliboski to discuss an action plan for the EDD for the remainder of 2013. Communities may still submit projects for the CEDS through the website until June 13. The next meeting will be announced at a later date.

Other Business: None.

Public Comment: Jim Nowacki of Gary commented on the handout provided by the American Planning Association on NIRPC's 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, which won the *Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan*. Mr. Nowacki commented on the projections for the future of the City of Gary, the lack of needed equipment in the city and the dissolution of the Regional Bus Authority.

Announcements:

- Sergio Mendoza announced the Lake Michigan Coastal Program is accepting applications for three vacancies on the coastal advisory board.
- Geof Benson thanked the volunteer fire departments in responding to emergencies across community lines. Commissioner Benson also thanked Robert Alderman for his work in the reconstruction of downtown Gary US12 corridor. The Calumet Summit is May 14-15 at the newly remodeled Marquette Park Pavilion. The EPA will soon meet with Benson as he chairs the Lake Michigan Shoreline Redevelopment Commission about two sustainable community grants for DOT/HUD/EPA, one for the City of East Chicago and one for the City of Gary.
- Commissioner Milo announced the Maple City Grand Prix boat race is from May 31 to June 2 in the City of LaPorte. The Fitness Fridays program has begun, taking place every Friday at 5:15 p.m. with a free 5K walk/run/cycle.

Report of the Executive Director: Ty Warner congratulated NIRPC's finance team on a 9th successful audit year. At the APA Conference in Chicago this week, NIRPC received the Daniel Burnham Award for the 2040 Plan. A two-minute overview video of the plan was shown to over 5,500 attendees. Mr. Warner facilitated a session at the conference on "Redefining Rural" about global economic studies that have shown the interplay that exists between urban and rural areas. In addition, a full-day mobile workshop showcasing northwest Indiana was done by Mitch Barloga, NIRPC; Craig Phillips, Michigan City and Bob Thompson, Porter County. The tour participants commented favorably on the region's assets. The tour also showed some of the challenges we face. Mary Thorne received favorable response from the Commission to her email about reducing our paper consumption which will save approximately \$875 per year in postage and upwards of approximately \$525 per year in printing costs on the commission mailings alone. NIRPC will provide information mostly through email and a link to the website. Meeting materials will also be projected onscreen at all NIRPC meetings. Only a handful of materials will be printed for those attending who may not have internet access. In addition, NIRPC has expanded its Wi-Fi range to better accommodate those with laptops or iPads. Staff can provide the guest password.

Adjournment: On a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Blair Milo, Chairman Uran adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.