

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN
September 20, 2012
Minutes

Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Commissioners present included Nancy Adams, Roosevelt Allen, Jr., John Bayler, Geof Benson, Matt Bernacchi, Kevin Breitzke, Bob Carnahan, Christine Cid, Tom Clouser, Anthony Copeland, Chet Dobis, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Ken Layton, Blair Milo, Diane Noll, Pamela Richard, Bob Shafer, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, James Snyder, James Ton, David Uran and George VanTil.

Others present included Keith Benman, Reggie Arkell, Jacqueline Turner, Kathy King, Amy Delahunty, Jim Nowacki, Richard Blackwell, Val Gomez, Rebecca Williams, AJ Monroe, Angie Fegaras, Jim Pinkerton, Bob Alderman, Karen Bobo, Joyce Newland, Dwayne Williams, Rosalyn Mitchell.

Staff present included John Swanson, David Hollenbeck, Steve Strains, Angie Hayes, Eman Ibrahim, Kathy Luther, Kevin Garcia, Mitch Barloga, Belinda Petroskey, Sarah Geinosky, Stephen Sostaric, Bill Brown, Kelly Wenger, and Mary Thorne.

Report of the Chair: Chairman Benson served as a panelist at the Cross-Border breakfast in Gary where he described the 2040 plan process and NIRPC's roles. Benson attended all three meetings of the Lake Michigan Marina and Shoreline Development Commission, which will meet again immediately after this meeting to discuss a pending Coastal program grant application and the Marquette Plan. Chairman Benson gave an update on the Arcelor-Mittal East Gate project for a possible bridge and the executive director contract review.

Presentation: Karen Bobo, Joyce Newland and Reggie Arkell of US Department of Transportation gave an overview of the new transportation bill, MAP-21, and some of the impacts of the bill on the region's funding programs and allocated monies. INDOT will forward guidance to the MPOs as it becomes available. More information can be found at www.fhwa.dot.gov/Map-21.

Presentation: Amy Delahunty presented on grant opportunities and clean fuel incentives for local government. Current and upcoming programs include the current diesel oxidation catalyst program, the current green fleet, and Green Town in Valparaiso on September 27 and 28. Other activities include DERA Grants with announcements in October, and biodiesel training in November. Contact South Shore Clean Cities if you are interested in having an electric charging station in your community. Service covers as far east as Valparaiso.

Jim Nowacki asked that his public comment on wetlands be stricken from the July 19th minutes. On a motion by Chet Dobis and a second by Jim Ton, the minutes of July 19 meeting were approved as amended.

Local Government Assistance Advisory Committee: Brian Snedecor encouraged participation at the upcoming Local Government Assistance Advisory Committee and Towns and Small Cities joint meeting on September 26 at 9:00 a.m. at the Festival Park Community Center in Hobart. Matt Geller will present on IACT's resource services and legislative program. Jim McShane will speak on a grant writing workshop and Kevin Garcia will give an overview of urban agriculture ordinances.

Ken Layton reported on the Executive Director search. The committee reviewed six final candidates. An offer has been extended to one candidate and a contract is being negotiated. The candidate will be recommended to the Full Commission in October.

The Finance & Personnel Committee recommended two budget amendments adding new grants for a video on the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, and a transfer to contractual environmental projects from promotional expenses for Air Quality education. On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by David Uran the board approved the two budget amendments. The AC Incorporated contract amendment would increase the budget amount by \$20,000 to increase the length of the clean air campaign video. On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by Ken Layton; the contract amendment was approved by the Executive Board. The agreement between NIRPC and Triple A Express to provide demand response service to North Township riders between July 1, 2012 and November 30, 2012 was explained by John Swanson. GPTC and East Chicago Transit were given some funding to help with their increased ridership. Brian Snedecor motioned to approve, Chet Dobis seconded; motion carried.

Environmental Management Policy Committee: Kevin Breitzke gave an overview of a presentation at the EMPC meeting on October 6 by Enbridge Pipeline on their proposed pipeline which will stretch across all three counties in the NIRPC region. There was a lot of discussion on construction methods, safety and concerns about possible spills and containment.

Transportation Policy Committee: Nancy Adams reported on the TPC meeting held last month. Bill Brown described Resolution 12-18, amending the FY 2012-2015 TIP for projects for INDOT, Valparaiso and East Chicago. Chet Dobis motioned to approve Resolution 12-18, Ken Layton seconded; motion carried. Belinda Petroskey described Resolution 12-19, amending the FY 2012-2015 TIP to delete remaining projects for the Regional Bus Authority. The funds will be used for other projects. Transit has been consistently lost in the last six years due to a lack of local match. Chet Dobis motioned to approve Resolution 12-18, Anthony Copeland seconded; motion carried. Stephen Sostaric briefed the committee on work being done by Kevin Garcia with the cities and towns to smooth out the boundaries outlined in the 2010 census. The new boundaries will be presented for action at the October commission meeting.

Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported on the August 17 Northwest Indiana Economic Development District meeting. Pat Overall, Economic Development Administration, verbally approved the documents and procedures as submitted. Patrick Lyp was appointed legal counsel. Calls for CEDS projects went out August 1 through September 28, media notices posted, and an application supplied to the LPAs. The committee is evaluating proposals for website design. They will meet tomorrow to recommend the hiring of a consultant for a renewable grant and the adoption of Resolution 12-1 changing the by-laws to comply with the requirements of the EDA. US Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary, Tom Gueverra made a presentation regarding a proposed tri-state, 21-county initiative for Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana to share resources.

Bob Alderman of INDOT reported on the forum he and Chairman Benson attended last Thursday in Gary on clean air issues. Congestion is a primary cause of poor air quality. Over the last six years, INDOT has spent just under \$600 million in this MPO generated by 17,000 jobs, \$428 million in Lake County alone. The Illiana, a \$1.6 billion investment which will address air quality, will create 9,000 immediate and 25,000 projected jobs. Hobart signage work is finishing, work on Cline Avenue is progressing, as is the work in downtown Gary. The Nine Span Bridge on 152 in Hammond was delayed one month to allow for the completion of two other projects on that road.

Jim Nowacki called for more bus service in the urban centers.

Report of the Executive Director: John Swanson stated that the comprehensive plan favors reinvestment in the urban core and has a very strong transit component. A regional solution to transit issues is needed. NIRPC will have a prime role at the GreenTown conference in Valparaiso next week. NIRPC received recertification from its 2009 review, with the next review planned for 2013.

On a motion by David Uran and a second by Chet Dobis, Chairman Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.