

**Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan
Implementation Committee Meeting
NIRPC Auditorium
February 13, 2014**

Minutes

Attendees

Michael Griffin, Alice Dahl, Nancy Adams, Jim Ton, Rick Niemeyer, Joan Crist, Cecile Petro, Kay Nelson, George Malis, Rich Herr, Brian Poland, Joe Wszolek, David Wright, Chris Meyers and Deb Backhus.

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Mitch Barloga, Eman Ibrahim, Scott Weber, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Sarah Geinosky and Mary Thorne.

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Michael Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions, commending the committee for their work on the Illiana.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Joe Wszolek, the minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

2040 CRP Implementation Activities

- a) Creating Livable Communities Grant – Eman Ibrahim presented the full report, announcing that NIRPC selected seven Creating Livable Communities planning grants totaling \$402,000. They were awarded to Chesterton, Crown Point, East Chicago, Gary, Highland, Town of Porter and Winfield. Construction and implementation phases will be solicited in the next round.
- b) Trail Updates – Mitch Barloga on the trail work being done at Wolf Lake in Hammond and the Indiana Dunes State Park, making the communities “trail towns”, improving access to the areas by residents and also improving tourism opportunities in Northwest Indiana.

Current Initiatives – 2040 CRP Update – Mitch Barloga announced that the plan will undergo an update as mandated by federal regulations. Staff will review and update the plan using the latest demographic data available. A call for projects will go out in the beginning of August with a 45-day public comment period to follow. The draft plan will be available in March 2015 with final approval in May of 2015. The air quality conformity and Transportation Improvement Program will be updated as well. This committee will assist staff with the update. Scott Weber explained the conformity process which will go out for a 30-day public comment period after review by the Interagency Consulting Group. NIRPC staff now exports data to INDOT for use with their new MOVES software. A timeframe will be provided.

Michael Griffin announced the next meeting will take place on April 10 at 9:00 a.m. and hearing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

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Schedule of Meetings:

- a) July 10, 2014
- b) October 9, 2014

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda Packet

An audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.