

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN
April 16, 2015

Minutes

Chairwoman Blair Milo called the Executive Board meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief stretch session.

Executive Board Members present included Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Dave Decker, Don Ensign, Michael Griffin, Blair Milo, Rich Murphy, Bob Schaefer, Greg Stinson and Jim Ton.

Other Commissioners present included John Bayler, Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Bob Carnahan, Stan Dobosz, Bill Emerson, Jr., Jeff Freeze, Richard Hardaway, Diane Noll, Randy Novak, Chris Salatas, Joe Simonetto and George Topoll.

Others present included Rick Powers, Justin Mount, Rebecca Holverda, Mike Molnar, Joe Crnkovich, Ray Dumbrys, David Wright, Matt Deitchley, Chris Murphy, Frank Rosado, Jr., Keith Benman and Jim Nowacki.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Angie Hayes, Steve Strains, Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Sarah Geinosky, Stephen Sostaric, Dave Hollenbeck and Mary Thorne.

Appointments to the Commission: Dave Hollenbeck announced the appointment of Jean Poulard by the Town of Michiana Shores to the NIRPC Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Rich Murphy.

Presentation: Mitch Barloga presented on *Greenways + Blueways 2020*, which combines the Ped, Pedal and Paddle Plan with the Greenways & Blueways Plan. He highlighted the historical formation of the plans for bike and ped trails, the water trails and the opportunities for greenspace. There are currently over 120 miles of bike and pedestrian trails and about 15 water trails identified with the help of the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA) which has grown to over 5,000 members working directly with communities to improve waterways. The new *Greenways + Blueways 2020* Plan combines conservation, recreation and transportation initiatives. The kickoff will occur within a month and the plan will be ready for adoption in December 2015. Discussion followed.

Report of the Chair:

Blair Milo reported that she met with Ty Warner and Michael Griffin to discuss continuation of the organization of committees. Some of the titles will be adjusted. The Transportation Finance

Committee title will be changed to the Transportation Finance and Oversight Committee. Consensus was reached that a quorum would constitute the majority of members but not less than three. The Technical Planning Committee make-up is still under discussion, with a suggestion that representatives from each of the topical committees would sit on the technical committee with one or two other representatives per county. The current Transportation Policy Committee stakeholder list was extensive and work will be done to insure that there is fair representation. More information will be provided at the May full Commission meeting.

Report of the Executive Director:

- Ty Warner reported that Kathy Luther and her staff are participating in the Marquette Plan update, combining Phase 1 and Phase 2. A draft is on the website. Contact Kathy Luther with any questions.
- The green infrastructure vision work done for the 2040 Plan is also a great basis for this work to maximize the potential.
- NIRPC has hired a candidate, James Winters, to fill the position of Regional Planner & Policy Analyst, which combines work done by two former planning staff. The goal is to recapture providing better census data to analyze data and trends to provide analysis for our communities and also provide assistance for grant opportunities. Ty Warner thanked Steve Strains for his work and due diligence in screening the applicants. Mr. Winters will begin on June 1.
- Some of NIRPC's staff are going to the National Conference of the American Planning Association in Seattle. Ty Warner will serve on a panel at a pre-conference event of MPO's about Livable Centers Programs.
- May will be a meeting of the full Commission in order to accommodate the timeline of the 2040 CRP update. Attendance by all Commissioners is very important.
- Flyers are available on a local food summit to be held on April 24. The registration deadline is tomorrow, April 17.

Finance & Personnel Committee: Committee Chair Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the committee met this morning. Two contracts are being recommended to the Executive Board for approval.

- Resolution 15-10 addresses a policy to monitor and review maintenance plans, address any maintenance deficiencies by subrecipients of federally funded equipment and institute remedies for non-compliance. On a motion by Roosevelt Allen, Jr. and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board adopted Resolution 15-10.
- Roosevelt Allen, Jr. described Procurement Amendment 14-10 for two vehicle replacements for LaPorte TransPorte. Amendment 14-10 was approved by the Executive Board on a motion by Roosevelt Allen, Jr. and a second by Bob Schaefer.

Environmental Management Policy Committee: Committee Chairman Geof Benson reported that the committee worked on CMAQ and the 2040 Plan and Marquette Plan update. The consent agenda and draft minutes were available in the materials. Earth Day is April 22, Green Gary is April 25 at Marquette Park and the Calumet Summit is May 12-13.

Transportation Policy Committee:

Chairman Stan Dobosz reported that the committee met on April 13 and heard an update from staff on the Project Planning Review. Contact Mitch Barloga for more information. The Committee approved the Functional Classification System update and the Congestion Management Process update, both of which will become part of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion to be presented for adoption by the full Commission at its meeting on May 21. Staff also presented a review of the 2040 Plan update, including comments from recent public meetings. The public comment period has been extended until April 27. The next meeting of the TPC will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12.

Stephen Sostaric referred to the public meeting report on pages 17-25 of the packet. A more detailed report will be presented after the end of the comment period on April 27.

Indiana Department of Transportation: Rick Powers reported that the asphalt plants are now open and over 5,000 miles of potholes are being repaired. Construction season is here. Matt Deitchley added that due to the accident this morning, all but one lane of 80-94 eastbound and westbound will close in about an hour to repair the ITS sign. Geof Benson thanked INDOT for their quick updates and good coordination. Mary Thorne was able to inform the Commissioners about the crash so that they could take alternate routes to the meeting.

Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD):

Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the NWIEDD received a recommendation from the IEDC which will be conveyed to the Chicago EDA office recommending that we are officially designated as an EDD. We expect a similar recommendation from Governor Pence. Matt Rueff is scheduling a tentative CEDS meeting for May 1 at 9 a.m.

Other Business: No other business was brought before the Executive Board.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Jim Nowacki, Gary, commented that there are few access points for water trails at this time in Gary. He commented that the walkability of US 12/20 is difficult. There are three driving lanes, no safe crossing, no sidewalks and a lot of brush along the road. Jim Nowacki also commented that the road is 4 to 6 inches higher, which creates sidewalk issues, water puddling issues. Kevin Breitzke offered that private property must be purchased to provide more accessibility.

Announcements:

- Kevin Breitzke said Earth Day in Porter County will be celebrated at the Expo Center on April 18. He added that a free seminar was being held on May 1 at NIRPC and encouraged flood plain managers to attend.
- Rich Murphy said Michigan City held a ground-breaking for the first art space project in Indiana. A funded and under construction \$15 million renovation of an existing vacant building will enable an artists gallery, live-work loft space etc. on Franklin Street which will help mark a resurgence for downtown Michigan City.

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Bob Schaefer, Blair Milo adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

For 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.

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