

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting  
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN  
March 15, 2018  
Minutes

**Call to Order**

Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live.

Executive Board Members present included Geof Benson, Anthony Copeland, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Justin Kiel, Mark Krentz, Greg Stinson, Jim Ton and George Topoll.

Commissioners present included Christine Cid, Don Ensign, Will Farrellbegg, Jane Jordan, Carolyn Saxton and Mary Tanis.

Guests present included Val Gomez, Matt Deitchley, David Wright, Lyndsay Quist, Andrew Steele and Tim Zorn.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Daria Sztaba, Trey Wadsworth, Talaya Jones, Charles Bradsky, Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, Scott Weber, James Winters and Mary Thorne.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the minutes of the February 15, 2018 Executive Board meeting were approved as presented.

**Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner**

The Marquette Greenway was not awarded a TIGER grant. Two-thirds of the projects awarded a grant were rural and only 5% were trails, half of which was for an Alaskan hunting trail. If there is another round, NIRPC will reapply.

The 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program is out for public comment until April 4.

**Finance & Personnel Committee – George Topoll**

The committee met this morning. Lisa Todd explained Procurement 18-04 for a replacement vehicle for South Lake County Community Services replacing a bus totaled in an accident in February. The \$70,678.50 cost will be paid through the insurance proceeds. On a motion by Tim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt the procurements.

**Environmental Management Policy Committee**

Kathy Luther reported that the committee voted to recommend the Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan for recommendation to the Technical Planning Committee at their meeting last week. Two presentations on brownfields were given. The next meeting will be held on April 5 and will be a joint meeting with federal urban waters. The Department of Natural Resources will perform environmental mitigation on projects which will improve the process.

### **Technical Planning Committee**

Reporting for Kevin Breitzke, Jim Ton reported that the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) met on Tuesday and heard updates and saw a brief video on "The Right to Walk." Mitch Barloga explained the public comment report on the draft Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan. The plan combines the 2007 Greenways Plan and the Ped and Peddle Plan and has been online for some time. Nine comments were received, mostly on water trails and waterways in La Porte and LaPorte County. Minor modifications to the plan will be made. Resolution 18-07 recommends the adoption of Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Karen Freeman-Wilson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan.

Trey Wadsworth explained the public comment report on Amendment #5 to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion. No comments were received. In January, the Commission adopted INDOT's safety targets and these safety targets must be amended into the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Karen Freeman-Wilson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 18-03, Amendment #5 to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion.

Trey Wadsworth explained the public comment report on Amendment #9 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. No comments were received. The previously adopted safety targets must now be amended into the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. On a motion by Mark Krentz and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 18-04, Amendment #9 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Charles Bradsky explained Resolution 18-05, Amendment #10 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for local projects as recommended by the TPC. Several were in the FY 2016-2019 TIP but did not carry over, so they are being added back into the current TIP. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 18-06, FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #10.

Charles Bradsky explained Resolution 18-06, Amendment #11 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for two National Park Service and 11 INDOT projects as recommended by the TPC. INDOT received funding for several projects in years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Due to time constraints, these 11 only cover 2020. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 18-06, FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #11.

The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee is scheduled for April 10, 2018 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

### **Indiana Department of Transportation**

Matt Deitchley reported that potholes are being filled. The asphalt plants are opening later than before. The high-water season closed roads and people should not drive around the barricades. Construction season will begin soon.

### **Legislative Committee**

Mary Tanis said she lobbied in Indianapolis. Tax appeals are in the courts now for big box stores. Two schools closed, one in Gary and one in Muncie. Sunday liquor sales are now allowed. Dyer is trying to deal with a person stacking large containers of fireworks which could have dangerous consequences and

the state fire marshal can't or won't do anything about it. Next year is a budget year. The Legislative Committee will discuss priorities.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Anthony Copeland, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 9:30 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.*

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