

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

January 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Lake Michigan Room, NIRPC Office
6100 Southport Rd. Portage, IN 46368

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 Introductions

3.0 Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2018 and November 8, 2018

ACTION REQUESTED – Approval

4.0 2050 Plan Strategies Identification

NIRPC staff will discuss and solicit feedback on strategies to pursue in the 2050 Plan. The strategies identified in the 2050 Plan will be focused upon the four Plan vision statements and guide future NIRPC planning activities.

ACTION REQUESTED – Discussion

5.0 Announcements

6.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EMPC committee is scheduled for February 7, 2019 at 9 am.

7.0 Adjournment

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

NIRPC - Lake Michigan Room

November 1, 2018

Minutes

Members/Guests: Bill Emerson Jr., Reggie Korthals, Sarah Nimetz, Will Farrellbegg, Sherryl Doerr, Tim Kingsland, Lauri Keagle, Deb Backhus, Jennifer Gadzala, George Malis, George Topoll, Kay Nelson, Brenda Scott Henry, Susan Mihalo, Jan Bapst, Maggie Byrne and Sylvia Collins.

NIRPC Staff: – Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Joe Exl and Candice Eklund

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Bill Emerson, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

NIRPC Business:

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Tim Kingsland and second by Jennifer Gadzala, the October 4, 2018 and October 10, 2018 EMPC meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Presentation: 2020-2024 TIP Programmatic Approach & Scoring Criteria

Mitch Barloga began his presentation by extending his appreciation to the committee for their determination to reach an agreement on the phase one scoring criteria and their continued efforts to work through phase two program scoring sheets.

Mitch Barloga and Kathy Luther presented the proposed project evaluation criteria and weights programs. The categories are the same for every program in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) due to the public mandating NIRPC address these categories through the project selection process. The first phase of the scoring process reviewed project types within the program categories. The second scoring phase measured the criteria for each of the EMPC program areas and provided a measurable recommendation for the group to consider, with a scoring criteria being subjective or binary (y/n). Kathy Luther and Joe Exl provided a draft of the evaluation criteria and scoring sheets for discussion. As the program scoring was being reviewed, points were changed live as needed, based on consensus of the committee. Kathy and Joe will condense all of the discussed scoring criteria for the seven EMPC programs, and create one program each for Air Quality and Environment.

When discussing the Economic Generation criteria for the AQ-Vehicle Emission reduction program, the group inquired how they would measure a complete return on investment (ROI) for alt-fuel or idle reduction on an economic investment. Kathy Luther will build an equation of economic benefit to include the clean air act criteria and pollutants. The committee also made the decision to move the Regional Plan Policy Support criteria, to the Project Readiness category, because the applicant is not eligible. Based on the committees' request, Kathy will recalculate the Max Criteria Points on each program to insure the score is 100.

The EMPC group successfully worked through scoring four of the programs. Due to time limitations, the group will reconvene on November 8, 2018 at 1:00 pm to discuss the criteria for the two condensed programs.

The input received will be reflected in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), to be approved by the TPC Committee on November 13, 2018 and then by the Full Commission on November 15. The draft TIP is due to INDOT by February 15, 2019.

Announcements

South Shore Clean Cities announced a free snow plow safety and winter preparedness training event on November 9, 2018 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am at the City Hall in Whiting, Indiana.

The DNR Coastal Program announced their Marsh poster unveiling event on November 7, 2018 at the Red Mill County Park in LaPorte County.

Lauri Keagle announced Partners for Clean Air is having a drawing to give away a free bike. To enter the drawing select 'like' and 'share' on their Facebook, Partners for Clean Air, page. Their goal is reach 1,000 'likes'.

Adjournment

Hearing no other business, Bill Emerson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Additional Scoring Criteria Session

NIRPC - Lake Michigan Room

November 8, 2018

Minutes

Members/Guests: Bill Emerson Jr., Jan Bapst, Lauri Keagle, Susan Mihalo.

NIRPC Staff: – Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Joe Exl and Candice Eklund

The scoring criteria session began at 1:00 pm

Presentation: 2020-2024 TIP Programmatic Approach & Scoring Criteria

Mitch Barloga began the scoring session acknowledging the efforts Kathy Luther and Joe Exl made in creating and consolidating the programs from the meeting on November 1, 2018.

Kathy Luther and Joe Exl reviewed the excellent feedback given by the committee at the meeting held on November 1st and updated the program scoring sheets to reflect their feedback. They created one program for Environment and one program for Air Quality by condensing the original seven EMPC programs and eliminating redundancies. Susan Mihalo requested the 2040 and 2050 plan implementation matrices be sent to her.

Kathy Luther and Joe Exl discussed each of the criteria's for the two condensed programs. The group appreciated and agreed on the equation Kathy built into the criteria for the AQ-Vehicle Emission reduction program for the Clean Air Act standards. Joe discussed possibly not having a measurable criteria for the Economic Generation category due to the difficulty in locating a useful conversion calculator when quantifying educational management to stormwater projects. The group recognized the category being difficult to measure and worked towards a feasible goal. Kathy Luther explored possible options and located a measurable mechanism through the Center for Neighborhood Technologies (CNT) website. The conversion tool offers a green values stormwater toolbox on their website. After entering the required criteria, the tool would provide specific results of cost savings and environmental benefit. Kathy will further investigate the criteria for this program. After a group discussion, Jan Bapst offered a measurable criteria statement that received consensus by the group.

Mitch Barloga remarked that with the EMPC committee completing their program scoring, the scoring for each topical committee had been successfully completed and will be reflected in the funding application. The application will be available on NIRPC's website November 23, 2018 and the deadline to submit applications will be January 11, 2019.

Kathy Luther briefed the group of the draft Funding Targets information sent out November 7, 2018 and to be reviewed by the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) on November 13, 2018. The draft Funding Targets for the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Air Quality is \$1,450,000 for the Chicago UZA (Lake and Porter Counties) and \$450,000 for the Michigan City UZA (LaPorte County). The draft Funding Target for Environment is \$350,000 for the Chicago UZA.

These funds will be awarded with a local match of 20%. Bill Emerson inquired how it could be possible to obtain additional environmental funding, to which Kathy Luther replied, "these projects are only eligible under the small dollar amount transportation alternatives program. The amount targeted for environment now is based on past projects".

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 2:40 with the completion of the program scoring criteria. The next EMPC meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2018.