

## **NIRPC Executive Board Meeting**

6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN

November 15, 2018

### **Minutes**

Call to Order - Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube and filmed for local public access. Though the meeting was intended as a Full Commission meeting, there was not a quorum of Commissioners present for a Full Commission. Most actions can be taken up by the Executive Board, but some actions on the agenda cannot be completed until a quorum of the Full Commission is present.

Executive Board members present included Geof Benson, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Michael Griffin, Justin Kiel, Tom McDermott, Jr., Mary Tanis, Jim Ton and George Topoll.

Other Commissioners present included Christopher Anderson, Jeannette Bapst, Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Christine Cid, Bill Emerson, Jr., Jane Jordan, Matt Murphy, Tom Schmitt, Brian Snedecor and Joe Stahura.

Guests present included Lauri Keagle, Craig Greeg, Bob Thompson, David Wright, Rick Powers, Lisa Shrader, Adam Parkhouse, Amy Stanley, Ismail Attallah, Jim Nowacki, Terry Velligan, Christopher Murphy, Phil Gralik, Andrew Steele and Tim Zorn.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Daria Sztaba, Trey Wadsworth, Talaya Jones, Charles Bradsky, Eman Ibrahim, Mitch Barloga, James Winters, Gabrielle Biciunas, Lisa Todd, Peter Kimball, Scott Weber, Meredith Stilwell and Mary Thorne.

#### **Public Comments –**

Jim Nowacki, Gary resident, commented on the 12/20 corridor issues.

David Wright, GPTC, commented on the Programmatic Approach and the NOFA.

Minutes – The minutes of the October 18, 2018 Executive Board meeting were approved on a motion by George Topoll and a second by Tom McDermott, Jr.

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

- Geof Benson presented Ty Warner with a service award for 5 years of service with NIRPC. Ty Warner presented services awards to Scott Weber for 5 years of service, Gabrielle Biciunas for 10 years of service and Mitch Barloga for 15 years of service. Mr. Warner also recognized Jody Melton, retiring Director of the Kankakee River Basin Commission after 37 years with NIRPC. Mr. Melton also served on the Local Government Assistance Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the Marina Commission and helped with 15 record floods in the region.
- NIRPC's Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan won a fourth award from the Indiana Association of Regional Councils, where Geof Benson served as keynote speaker. Warner thanked staff for their work on the plan, particularly project managers Mitch Barloga and Kathy Luther.

#### **Report of the Chair – Geof Benson**

- Geof Benson reported that he was the keynote speaker at the Indiana Association of Regional Councils meeting and spoke on behalf of NIRPC's work and as President of the National Association of Regional Councils..
- The Nominating Committee, consisting of the four officers, will meet later today to set a slate for the January meeting.
- NIRPC was considering altering the regular meeting schedule to focus on the quarterly meetings of the Full Commission. Tom McDermott suggested continuing to hold the regularly scheduled Full Commission meetings and cancelling the Executive Committee meetings if there was no

business. Warner made known the staffing concerns in managing the number of committee meetings since the reworking of the committee structure, and also that attendance has been an issue, especially among the subcommittees, suggesting a degree of committee burnout and being spread too thin among committees. The value of the Commission members themselves coming together regularly as a region was cited by the Commission, as was the public's opportunities to learn about what is happening through NIRPC's presentations and discussions at the Board level. The primacy of the Commission over the subcommittees was also cited, as the Commission alone sets policy. It was suggested that even if the subcommittees might be reconsidered, the Commission meetings remain regular and primary.

#### Finance & Personnel Committee –

- George Topoll said the committee met this morning to review the financial status, reconciliation of expenses, and approve the claims register.
- Daria Sztaba presented the 2019 Budget, which was recommended by the Finance & Personnel Committee. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Karen Freeman-Wilson, the Executive Board voted to recommend the 2019 NIRPC Budget to the Full Commission at its next meeting in January.
- Kathy Luther described the contract with Lakota Group for a Deep River Asset Management Plan. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board voted to adopt the contract.
- Geof Benson commended Ty Warner for his work as NIRPC's Executive Director, echoed by several Commissioners, and explained the new 3-year contract and compensation, which was recommended by the Finance & Personnel Committee. If adopted by the Full Commission, Mr. Warner will receive a 4% salary increase. On a motion by Tom McDermott, Jr. and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to recommend approval of the Executive Director's contract to the Full Commission at its next meeting in January.

#### Environmental Management Policy Committee –

Bill Emerson, Jr. reported that concerns about the US Steel chromium spill and comments from the EMPC and others, brought the EPA to create a Northwest Indiana sub-group regarding these environmental issues. The committee also spent about 9 ½ hours on the programming and scoring and are satisfied with the results.

#### Technical Planning Committee –

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met on November 13 and heard a staff presentation on 2050 pop up events.

Scott Weber explained three actions involving the approval of performance measure targets for safety, pavement and bridge conditions and system performance, freight and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board adopted Resolution 18-19 for safety performance measure targets. On a motion by Tim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board adopted Resolution 18-20 for pavement and bridge conditions performance measure targets. On a motion by Tim Ton and a second by Tom McDermott, Jr., the Executive Board adopted Resolution 18-21 for system performance, freight and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality performance measure targets.

James Winters explained the 30-day public comment period report and Resolution 18-22, the draft Coordinated Transit Plan. Five comments were received. Some modifications were made but none were significant enough to require another public comment period. On a motion by Tom McDermott, Jr. and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board adopted Resolution 18-22 for the Coordinated Transit Plan.

Charles Bradsky provided a demonstration of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), NIRPC's web-based program for the public to review our Transportation Improvement Program, which is available on the website at <https://rtip.nirpc.org>. INDOT will be updating the mapping.

Mitch Barloga presented on Resolution 18-23, the FY 2020-2024 Notice of Funding Availability. Applications are due to NIRPC by January 11, 2019. The draft TIP is due to INDOT by February 15. The final draft will be reviewed by TPC on March 12 and a 30-day public comment period will be held during the month of April. Final adoption by the Commission is anticipated by May 16, 2019. The outline for future NOFAs was also provided. At the request of Brian Snedecor, under the funding targets for air quality, the word "transit" was removed from the vehicle emission reduction line item to allow for applications for all vehicle emission reductions. The Technical Planning Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 18-23. On Tom McDermott, Jr. moved to adopt Resolution 18-23, seconded by Jim Ton. Brief discussion followed. Jim Ton made a friendly motion to adopt with the exceedance of Mayor Snedecor, seconded by Tom McDermott, Jr. Motion carried. Ty Warner added that comments are always welcome throughout the process and for future NOFAs.

The Complete Streets workshop will be held on December 7 from 9 am to 4 pm. The fee is \$30. All communities attending will have a draft Complete Streets policy if they do not already have one. The Technical Planning Committee will meet on December 11 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

#### Legislative Committee – Mary Tanis

The Committee met in October. AIM is having a roundtable on December 5 at Teibel's. A Redevelopment Indiana meeting will be held on December 14 at AIM in Indianapolis. The Committee is monitoring the double tracking and the West Lake Corridor and TOD plans coming up.

#### Indiana Department of Transportation – Rick Powers

INDOT is still looking for CDL drivers. There was a lot of competition for the Community Crossings grants. 283 communities did receive funds. Another application round is coming up soon, and again in July. Road projects will be completed by the end of the month. Crossings scores have been published on the website. Kevin Breitzke requested a presentation on the Community Crossings grant at an upcoming TPC meeting. Rick Powers said anyone interested in attending the workshops should do so as well.

#### Other Commission Business –

Tom McDermott announced that the first meeting of the railroad task force will be held on December 17 at 1:00 p.m. at NIRPC. Mitch Barloga will be the staff lead. Commissioners, city engineers and anyone who wishes to provide assistance is welcome to attend. We want to convey our concerns to the train operators.

#### Announcements –

George Topoll asked everyone to remember E. Ric Frataccia, Porter County educator.

The Full Commission/Executive Board will meet on January 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

#### Adjournment –

Hearing no other business, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 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.

*The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.*