

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
February 21, 2019
Minutes

Call to Order - Chairperson Diane Noll called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

Board Members present included Geof Benson, Tim Bietry, Justin Kiel, Diane Noll, Greg Stinson, James Ton and George Topoll.

Commissioners present included Jeannette Bapst, Kevin Breitzke, Charlie Brown, Robert Carnahan, Bill Emerson, Jr., Don Ensign, Will Farrellbegg, Jane Jordan, Steve Kramer, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer and Brian Snedecor.

Guests present included Justin Mount, Lauri Keagle, Matt Deitchley, Adam Parkhouse, Jessica Spiess, Lisa Shrader, Lauren Varga, Jeff Huet, Terri Saltzman, Ismail Attallah, Jill Murr, David Wright, Christopher Murphy, Tim Zorn and Andrew Steele.

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

Public Comments –

There were no comments from the public.

New Appointments – Dave Hollenbeck announced the appointments to the Commission of Sheila Brillson from the La Porte County Commission and Joshleen Denham from the Town of Trail Creek.

Minutes – The minutes of the January 17, 2019 Full Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by George Topoll.

Report of the Chair – Diane Noll

The Committee Assignments for 2019 were shared with the commissioners in attendance. Ty Warner added that Chairs and Vice Chairs were assigned for the Lake and Porter Transportation Resource & Oversight (TROC) and the La Porte Transportation Resource & Oversight Committees.

Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner

Mr. Warner reported on the National Association of Regional Council's Legislative Conference in Washington DC attended by Warner, Geof Benson and Justin Kiel. The NIRPC team brought

the issues of a new reauthorization in 2020, projected shortfall in the highway trust fund, and revenue options such as a gas tax or a tax by tracking vehicle miles traveled. They also discussed the rail crossing blockage issue. The Honorable Peter DeFazio, of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, was a speaker at the conference at a session on a possible infrastructure package. The rail issue stemmed from the consensus of the Commission last month to support HB 1090 on rail crossing blockages and emergency response safety issues. Geof Benson, who also serves as current President of NARC, added that speakers included Ben Carson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Honorable Sam Graves, Missouri; and the Honorable Dina Titus, Nevada; as well as the Honorable Earl Blumenauer, Oregon. Regarding the Highway Trust Fund issue, Justin Kiel added there was a third revenue option of decreasing the federal match; however, we want a strong federal partner.

Finance & Personnel Committee – Justin Kiel

Justin Kiel said the committee met this morning to review the financial status, reconciliation of expenses, and approve the claims register. There was no action required of the Board today.

Environmental Management Policy Committee – Kathy Luther

Kathy Luther reported that the committee met on February 7 to review the scoring for CMAQ and environmental projects and heard a presentation from a student group at Purdue on education and air quality. Jan Bapst added that the committee supports Resolution 19-07 from the Legislative Committee.

Technical Planning Committee – Kevin Breitzke

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met on February 12 and collaborated with staff on programming projects for the draft FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program which was submitted to INDOT last week. The final TIP will go out for public comment and then be brought to the TPC for its recommendation to the NIRPC Commission in May. The next meeting will be on March 12 at 10 a.m. at NIRPC.

Legislative Committee – Ty Warner

- Ty Warner presented Resolution 19-06 in support of a legislative change to NIRPC's appropriation from 70 cents per capita set in the early '90's to its current dollar value of 96 cents per capita and indexing the per capita rate into the future. Michael Griffin had drafted the language for the legislative change at the direction of the committee. This change would enable NIRPC to do even more throughout the three counties and to leverage additional federal and other grants. The need for this increase has been discussed for several years. This could either be amended into a bill in the current session or put it into regular session next year. Kevin Breitzke supported the resolution and said the fiscal bodies of the three counties be made aware. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by George Topoll, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-06.
- Resolution 19-07 was supported by the Environmental Management Policy Committee for a feasibility study for erosion control at the Portage Lakefront Park. A National Parks

Conservation Association video on the need for action on beach erosion was shown to the Commission. The resolution supports a feasibility study be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers in order to develop long-term solutions to address severe shoreline erosion on Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline, specifically at the Portage Lakefront. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by George Topoll, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-07.

- Resolution 19-08 supports House Bill 1090 regarding trains blocking rail crossings for prolonged periods of time. The Commission at its last meeting had voted to lend conceptual support for the bill until the actual language could be reviewed. Warner sent a letter in this regard to Indianapolis, and the Legislative Committee has since reviewed the actual bill language and recommends support. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-08.
- Resolution 19-09 supports Senate Bill 83 which allows a redevelopment commission to use up to 15% of the property tax proceeds allocated to a redevelopment district in a fiscal year for ongoing maintenance and repair of: (1) public ways; and (2) sewers, central water systems, central sewer systems, roads, sidewalks, and levees; that are located in an allocation area and that were funded in whole or in part with tax proceeds allocated to the redevelopment district. Mayor Snedecor explained Senate Bill 83 in more details and argued for its support. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-09.

Transportation Conformity

- Scott Weber reported that no comments were received during the public comment period.
- Scott Weber explained Resolution 19-10 making the Transportation Conformity Determination for the 2040 Comprehensive regional Plan Update Companion Amendment #7 and FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #20 with respect to ozone in La Porte County. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-10.
- Scott Weber explained Resolution 19-11, Amendment #7 to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion adding three projects in La Porte County. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Jim Ton, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-11.
- Scott Weber explained Resolution 19-12, Amendment #20 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program adding additions to the Comments Column as explained. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-12.

Indiana Department of Transportation

Matt Deitchley reported that the pothole repairs have begun and construction season is just around the corner.

Announcements –

- Bob Carnahan commented on the importance of participation in the 2020 Census in order to not lose funding or representation.

- Laurie Keagle announced the February 26, 2019 South Shore Clean Cities Annual Meeting & Awards at the Blue Chip in Michigan City.
- The VW Settlement Advisory Committee will meet on March 4.

Adjournment –

Hearing no other business, Diane Noll adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m. The Executive Board will meet on March 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

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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