

## **NIRPC Executive Board Meeting**

6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN

May 16, 2019

Minutes

Call to Order - Chairperson Diane Noll called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions, noting that it was to be a meeting of the Executive Board. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

Executive Board Members present included Geof Benson, Justin Kiel, Mark Krentz, Diane Noll, Greg Stinson, James Ton and George Topoll.

Other Commissioners present included Kevin Breitzke, Charlie Brown, John Cannon, Robert Carnahan, Bill Emerson, Jr., Don Ensign, Will Farrellbegg, Tom Fath, Michael Griffin, Jane Jordan, Steve Kramer, Andrew Kyres, Sheila Matias, Mike Rosenbaum, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer and Sharon Szweddo.

Guests present included Rep. Lisa Beck, Rick Powers, Carl Lisek, Tim Werner, Randy Strasser, Andrew Steele, Kelly Wenger, Penelope Love, Lauren Varga, Jill Murr, D. Morgan, Nick Bellar, Matt Deitchley, Tom Silich, Ismail Attallah, John Pagone, Don Oliphant, Tim Zorn, AJ Monroe, Lauren Varga, Ismail Attallah, Rick Powers, Matt Deitchley, David Wright, Yolanda Coriano and Jose Tinoco.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Daria Sztaba, Kathy Luther, Trey Wadsworth, Mitch Barloga, Dominique Edwards, Charles Bradsky, Gabrielle Biciunas, Peter Kimball, James Winters, Scott Weber and Eman Ibrahim.

Appointment - David Hollenbeck announced the appointment of Sharon Szweddo from the Town of New Chicago.

Public Comments –

District 19 Representative Lisa Beck spoke about road safety concerns on 109th Avenue in Winfield.

Minutes – The minutes of the April 18, 2019 Executive Board meeting were approved on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Jim Ton.

Report of the Chair – Diane Noll

Diane Noll congratulated Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga and staff on receiving a best practice award from the American Planning Association - Indiana Chapter for the Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan. This is the fifth award the plan has received.

Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner

Ty Warner said it is National Infrastructure Week and it was fitting that we are here seeking approval of the *NWI 2050 Plan*, the TIP and the Air Quality Conformity. Next Level Trails funding was awarded to Schererville, Burns Harbor and Hebron. Over a year has been spent on public input in

the plan's development, culminating in a 30 day public comment period in April for the *NWI 2050 Plan*. The plan is a federal requirement in order to receive federal funding for projects. It builds on the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan and will guide NIRPC's activities for years. Mr. Warner thanked Trey Wadsworth for his management throughout this process and staff for their contributions. In conjunction with NWI 2050, Mr. Warner announced the new NIRPC logo, which will replace the 50th anniversary logo as NIRPC moves into its next 50 years.

#### 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 one action recommended by the Finance & Personnel Committee for approval by the Board today. Kathy Luther explained the South Shore Clean Cities contract for air quality public education for Ty's signature pending approval by INDOT for our Unified Planning Work Program. The amount for services performed is not to exceed \$302,080 with the \$75,520 match provided by South Shore Clean Cities. The contract was approved by the Executive Board on a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll.

#### Technical Planning Committee - Kevin Breitzke

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met on May 14 and heard a staff presentation on Next Level Trails. The next round is scheduled to begin in July or August.

There are four actions for consideration. The first is Resolution 19-18, the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the *NWI 2050 Plan* and the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Breitzke said the Technical Planning Committee recommended adoption. Scott Weber said no comments were received during the 30-day comment period from April 1 to April 30. He described the resolution and conclusion that the 2050 Plan and TIP meet the Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity Rule requirements for the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Greg Stinson motioned to approve, seconded by Jim Ton. Charlie Brown stated that we are being held captive to these standards when much of the emissions is from pass-through traffic and someone needs to contact the EPA and members of Congress to tell us why. His sentiments were echoed by Dave Shafer, Sharon Szwedo, Michael Griffin and Bob Carnahan. With a motion and second on the floor, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-18, the Air Quality Conformity Determination.

Mr. Breitzke said the Technical Planning Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 19-19, the *NWI 2050 Plan*. Dominique Edwards overviewed the comments in the public comment report. The metrics for determining significance and measures for modification were determined by the current Public Participation Plan which is being updated. Staff provided answers to the comments after the public hearings. Mitch Barloga presented on the development of the 2050 planning process over the last year. The *NWI 2050 Plan* and Storybook are on NIRPC's website. George Topoll motioned to approve, seconded by Jim Ton. Greg Stinson asked for clarification on language in the resolution. Mr. Warner explained the language and Dave Hollenbeck confirmed the language was not problematic and did not need to be edited. With a motion and second on the floor, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-19, the *NWI 2050 Plan*.

Mr. Breitzke said the Technical Planning Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 19-20, the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. Charles Bradsky described the three public comments received during the 30-day comment period. Mr. Button's comments were related to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to be addressed in future NOFAs. The process will be honed during the next NOFA. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-20, the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Breitzke said the Technical Planning Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 19-21, Support for Applications to the Volkswagen Mitigan Trust. James Winters said this resolution supports applications by GPTC and East Chicago Transit. This would free up about \$2 million for the other transit operators, who support these applications. On a question by Sheila Matias, Geof Benson said there is a separate "pot" for transit projects and LaPorte County's application would not be hindered by the resolution. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-21, Support for Applications to the Volkswagen Mitigan Trust.

Mr. Breitzke said the next TPC meeting will be held on June 11, 2019 at 10 a.m. at NIRPC.

Indiana Department of Transportation - Rick Powers

Rick Powers reported on the 40-ton honey spill on 80/94 yesterday. Concrete restoration work will begin on I-65, forcing lane restrictions for about four months. Three mowing cycles have been added.

Other Business -

- Bob Carnahan discussed the upcoming census and handed out a fact sheet on the benefits calculated out to about \$2,710 per person counted. Undercounting a community's population could result in misallocation of funds for a decade as well as the potential loss of a US Congressman.
- Charlie Brown commented on the repercussions of the reduction in membership to the NICTD board and requested that Ed Soliday report out at a future Commission meeting.
- Bill Emerson offered the services of the Environmental Management Policy Committee to research emissions testing and report back to the Commission.
- Michael Griffin referenced the Legislative Committee's goal of a new funding formula saying something could still be prepared for the short session. He renewed his belief that there is parliamentary rationale for NIRPC to modify its quorum requirement from something less than a majority to something more than seven. Kevin Breitzke said good communications with county commissions and county councils is necessary as they would take the brunt of any increase in taxes and fees. Mr. Griffin agreed that they would be consulted. Ty Warner said he did have conversations with our legislators about our apportionment, but felt that it would be more effective if the Commissioners made the push.
- John Cannon said Portage will have representation at future NIRPC meetings. Portage is implementing a truck route in July which will restrict trucks on Willowcreek Road from the Toll Road to I-94, as the city cannot find funding for paving that section of the road. Restrictions of 12 tons and 48 feet will be implemented on all trucks passing through the city for safety reasons as well as infrastructure needs. Mayor Cannon said he would like to discuss moving funds from 2024 to 2020 to help pay for paving that road.

Announcements –

- Bob Carnahan announced that this is also National Police Week and yesterday was National Police Memorial Day.
- Bob Carnahan said 16 Plus will meet on May 31 at 9 a.m. at Schererville Town Hall and invited legislators to present on issues in the General Assembly.

Adjournment –

Hearing no other business, Diane Noll adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m. The Full Commission/Executive Board will meet on August 15, 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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