

WMSRDC
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REGIONAL BOARD MEETING

July 18, 2016 - Oceana County

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Chairperson Susie Hughes.

II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes

Commissioners Present:

Lake County – Barbara Stenger

Mason County - Bill Carpenter, Michael Krauch, Wally Taranko

Muskegon County- Susie Hughes, David Kieft, Bonnie McGlothlin
Terry Sabo, Byron Turnquist, Rillastine Wilkins

Newaygo County – Chris Ortwein, James Rynberg

Oceana County – Dean Gustufson

WMSRDC Appointees - Joe Lenius, Chris McGuigan, Ron Steiner

Muskegon Community College – Dale Nesbary

West Shore Community College – Crystal Young

Commissioners Absent:

Muskegon County – Kay Beecham

Newaygo County – Jim Maike,

Oceana County – Evelyn Kolbe

Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Susan Stine-Johnson, Syndi Copeland, Stephen Carlson

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Kieft and supported by Commissioner Carpenter to approve the agenda for the July 18, 2016 Commission meeting. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Wilkins to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 Commission minutes and the June 13, 2016 Executive Officers minutes. Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

VI. HOST (Oceana County)

Commissioner Steiner welcomed all to the Starting Block, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in October. Oceana County's largest economic engines are food processing, tourism and manufacturing. The new Hart Montague bike trail ribbon cutting is today. Dean Gustufson welcomed all as well. The county values the work of WMSRDC.

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Hughes stated that Michigan Beach Towns Association will be here on July 25 at 10:00 AM to declare the West Michigan Pike and Michigan Byways as open and Muskegon as an official beach town. Susie mentioned a situation in Muskegon where lightning struck and wiped out all internet systems to the airport and MATS system. Muskegon County used the hazard mitigation plan that Stephen Carlson created to assist with the situation.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Erin Kuhn, highlighted the final steps to Governor's Transit Mobility Study which will take place after October 1, 2016 and will be completed by January 2017.

WMSRDC will be enacting the MOU with Region 8 for Asset Management road ratings in three townships in Ottawa County. These townships are not covered by an MPO. Region 8 asked for assistance from WMSRDC to complete the road ratings in the townships.

Port Day, July 26, 2016, will take place in Muskegon. WMSRDC will not present the Martin Study for the Infrastructure and Organizational Analysis on that day as it is not ready for a public presentation. A private presentation will take place at WMSRDC the following day.

The Coastal Resiliency grant through the Delta Institute is underway. This is a pilot project that could be expanded throughout other coastal communities in our Region and the Great Lakes.

The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance had a call for projects due this past Friday. A total of 13 projects were submitted. Several of the projects directly impact the WMSRDC Region, some of which include the following: The West Michigan Watershed Collaborative (Phase 2), the West Michigan Water Systems Plan, the Port of Muskegon Infrastructure and Information Analysis (Phase 2), and The Stream in Newaygo County digital works program.

Erin congratulated four of five counties on the USDA LEAD grant recently announced. These four counties worked together to apply for this grant. WMSRDC is hoping to partner with this process through the Economic Development program.

IX. FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW SYSTEM

There were twelve (12) FPRS applications processed, 2016-11 through 2016-22 (2016-11 replaced 2016-04 and 2016-12 replaced 2016-05).

X. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Region 8 – Dave Bee is on vacation. Erin noted once again the use of the MOU to complete road ratings in Ottawa County.

XI. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – Susan Stine-Johnson, Finance Manager, gave an overview of the following attachments. WMSRDC is at the end of its third quarter.

- A. WMSRDC Monthly Financial Reports - (Attachment XI-A)
- B. HSGP Monthly Financial Reports - (Attachment XI-B)
- C. WMSRDC Schedule of Accounts Receivable – (Attachment XI-C)
- D. HSGP Schedule of Accounts Payable – (Attachments XI-D)
- E. Cash Disbursements – (Attachment XI-E)

Motion was made by Commissioner Ortwein and supported by Commissioner Turnquist to accept the Financial Statements. Motion carried.

XII. PROGRAM REPORT – Stephen Carlson, Program Manager – CEDS Rewrite

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – Susie Hughes mentioned that Muskegon County recently reestablished their Economic Development Commission. Muskegon County just signed a contract with a company who is looking at solar and wind opportunities at the Muskegon County waste water facility. Zephyr Site cleanup will begin in January.

XIV. ROUND TABLE

Dave Kieft stated that the design work for the Fred Meijer Berry Junction trail is done and on Friday were awarded grant monies from MDOT, DNR Trust Fund, West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition and the Muskegon Community Foundation to begin work by early spring 2017.

Dean Gustufson stated that Oceana County's new administrator is Robert Sobie.

Michael Krauch mentioned that the City of Ludington's development application to MSHDA was approved, which will provide more retail and residential space, and ultimately a new fire station. An approved zoning request for an 80 unit apartment complex was approved as well. MSU Extension – is also involved in the LEAD grant. Interviews for water resource candidate have resulted in four candidates.

West Shore Community college signed an agreement with Michigan State University to offer some ag/tech certifications – so now students in two years can receive an Associates Degree from West Shore as well as a certificate in either Fruit and Vegetable Management or Ag. Operations from MSU. On July 29-31, WSCC will be hosting a Google startup weekend at Camp Blue Sky on upper Hamlin Lake – a disconnect to reconnect, of sorts.

Barbara Stenger updated the Board on the Lake County Economic Development Program which has become a 501C3 with 22 board members. She stated they are very happy with County Administrator, Tobi Lake.

Chris Ortwein, stated Newaygo County is trying to add new jobs, bringing people in. So the challenge for the county is enough housing. He mentioned the Hardy trail is moving forward with breaking ground fall of 2017.

Dale Nesbary, Muskegon Community College, stated they have a \$45 million infrastructure redevelopment and strategic planning support process, with \$2.5 million coming from EDA through WMSRDC for the downtown project. MCC is expecting 1,000 students by fall of 2017 in the downtown campus. MSU has expanded their program offering through a partnership with MCC.

Ron Steiner updated information on the agriculture program through The Starting Block. Food processing is manufacturing, but it also complements the agriculture program. It is a country wide problem finding young people who can work and who will show up. Ron suggested this information be added into the CEDS.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT-WMSRDC PROGRAMS - There were no public comments.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Ortwein and supported by Commissioner Taranko to adjourn at 11:33 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: September 19, 2016 – Muskegon County


Susan Hughes, Chairperson

9-19-16

Date


Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

9-19-16

Date