

**WMSRDC**  
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 27, 2020 – Muskegon County

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 10:06 AM** by Chairperson James Rynberg

**II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

**Commissioners Present:**

Mason County: Charles Lange, Joe Lenius  
Muskegon County: Kay Beecham, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bonnie McGlothlin, Rillastine Wilkins  
Newaygo County: Burt Cooper, James Maike, James Rynberg  
Oceana County: James Brown  
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly, Rich Houtteman  
Muskegon CC: Dale Nesbary  
West Shore CC: Crystal Young

**Commissioners Absent:**

Lake County: Howard Lodholtz  
Mason County: Nick Krieger  
Muskegon County: Jennifer Hodges, Ken Johnson, Bob Scolnik  
Oceana County: Dean Gustafson  
WMSRDC Appointees: Andrea Large

Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Amanda Snyder, Syndi Copeland  
Eric VanDop & Jenni Wheeler, Brickley DeLong

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Beecham and supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright to approve the agenda for the January 27, 2020 Commission meeting. Motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Lenius and supported by Commissioner Lange to approve the November 18, 2019 Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The December 16, 2019 Officer's meeting minutes were attached for information only.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

**VI. HOST (Muskegon County)**

Commissioner Hovey-Wright welcomed all to Muskegon.

**VII. AUDIT PRESENTATION**

Audit presentation was given by Eric VanDop and Jenni Wheeler. The audit was clean. Motion was made by Commissioner Hovey-Wright and supported by Commissioner Kelly to approve the FY19 Audit. Motion carried.

**VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Commissioner Rynberg had nothing to report.

**IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Acronyms, updated January 9, 2020, were given to all Commissioners.

**Transportation** – WMSRDC staff is in the process and on schedule to develop our new Long Range Transportation Plan for 2045. This will be completed within the next couple months, officially approved and sent on the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHA) in June 2020.

WMSRDC is scheduled to attend our Pre-United Work Program meeting on February 26 in Lansing. This is an annual audit performed by FHA and MDOT, looking at changes, etc. throughout the previous year and any anticipated changes in the area or the program that need to be noted for the coming year. They then give a projection for the FY21 transportation budget. This begins our cycle of developing the next fiscal year budget and indirect cost proposal.

**Economic Development** – WMSRDC received the EDA Partnership Planning Grant. It is a \$300,000 grant over three fiscal years to provide technical assistance to our local communities for economic development.

**Environmental** – Veterans Memorial Park had a lot of activity where WMSRDC engineers placed a new water control structure and a wet well to pump down water to help with flooding and sustain the park. There is still some work left for the spring, but for the most part, the grant is completed.

WMSRDC applied for a NOAA Regional Partnership grant for non-Area of Concern (AOC) waterways which included three projects: Pere Marquette River (Ludington), Little Flower Creek (Northern Muskegon County), and White River (Oceana County). These grants will focus on road stream crossings, fish passage and some contaminated sediment removal.

**Local Government Services** – WMSRDC has submitted the grant for the update of Hazard Mitigation plans for Mason, Lake and Oceana counties. We expect to hear about award this summer.

Erin will leave tomorrow to attend the Michigan Municipal Executive's (MME) conference in Gaylord in regard to Infrastructure Asset Management and the Michigan Infrastructure Council.

**Other Activities** – Erin informed the board of plans for the WMSRDC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held on Tuesday, July 7. There will be an open house in the afternoon and a staff/board dinner in the evening. WMSRDC will have a guest speaker for the evening.

**X. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hovey-Wright and supported by Commissioner Wilkins to approve the December 2019 financials. Motion carried.

**XI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Beecham and supported by Commissioner Brown to accept Commissioner Bonnie McGlothlin as WMSRDC Board Chairperson; Commissioner Dale Nesbary as WMSRDC Board Vice-Chairperson; and Commissioner

Charles Lange as WMSRDC Board Secretary. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rynberg thanked the board for allowing him to serve as Chairperson for the past three years and turned the position over to Commissioner McGlothin.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Newaygo County and surrounding counties have been devastated with flooding. Commissioner Maike wondered if there is anything the commission can do to assist with repair of these properties. Erin noted the potential of a disaster declaration by the state and federal government to make available funding opportunities to assist. There is much discussion at the Local, State and Federal level regarding flooding and erosion. Erin is aware of these issues and will look for potential opportunities to assist local communities.
- Commissioner Maike stated that Kelly Smith retired as Manager of the Newaygo County Road Commission. A new Manager, Derek Wawczyk, has been chosen.
- Commissioner Kelly stated that there is a Community Conversation entitled, "What's up with Our Water?" on Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at White Lake Library. Kathy Evans will be one of the speakers at the event.
- Commissioner Houttemann stated that the Rural Communities Conference will meet in April at Crystal Mountain. Consumers Energy provides some scholarships for registration. Rich will get the information to Erin. He also informed the Board of an opportunity for communities to receive an award through "Put Your Community on the Map".
- Commissioner Lenius stated that Heritage Park in Ludington has been affected by the erosion problem.
- Erin stated that the end of April, the first ever Great Lakes Water Conference will meet in Novi. Erin and Kathy Evans will be attending, and she is happy to email the link to the Board.

## **XIII. ROUND TABLE**

- Commissioner Beecham stated that Norton Shores has done work on the Mona Lake channel and reported there have been some flooding issues on streets in the city.
- Commissioner Lange is happy to see WMSRDC working in Mason County.
- Commissioner Cooper stated he is on Abby Watkins committee to bring more clarity to the definition of emergency funding. The purpose is to speed up the process of disaster declarations.
- Commissioner Maike stated that WMSRDC was at a township meeting to report on the Big Prairie Recreation Plan, which was approved. Maike still serves on the Michigan DNR Trails Advisory Committee. All advisory committees will be meeting in Roscommon, and he would be willing to bring any information to that meeting.
- Commissioner Lenius stated that a survey went out from the City of Ludington in regards to lead water lines, and it will take about two years to determine the extent of the work.

- Commissioner Young informed that Westshore Community College purchased a blighted property in downtown Manistee to house MI! Works, the Chamber and the college. It should be in use by September.
- Commissioner Hovey-Wright spoke regarding the potential interest by Muskegon County in the Hackley Administration building currently owned by Muskegon Public Schools.
- Conversation ensued regarding moving the board meeting back to the fourth Monday of the month. This will be discussed at the next Officer's meeting. Any changes would happen in the FY2021 schedule.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT - WMSRDC PROGRAM**

There was no public comment.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Houttemann to adjourn at 10:55 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2020 – Mason County (Fire Barn)

  
Bonnie McGlothlin, Chairperson

5/18/20  
Date

  
Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

5-18-2020  
Date