



July 20, 2020 – Zoom

I. **CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 AM** by Chairperson Bonnie McGlothin

II. **ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

Commissioners Present:

Lake County: Howard Lodholtz
Mason County: Charles Lange, Joe Lenius
Muskegon County: Jennifer Hodges, Ken Johnson, Bonnie McGlothin,
Bob Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins
Newaygo County: Burt Cooper, James Rynberg
Oceana County: Dean Gustafson
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly, Andrea Large
Muskegon CC: Dale Nesbary

Commissioners Absent:

Mason County: Nick Krieger
Muskegon County: Kay Beecham, Marcia Hovey-Wright
Newaygo County: Burt Cooper, James Maike
Oceana County: James Brown
WMSRDC Appointees: Rich Houtteman
West Shore CC: Crystal Young

Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Amanda Snyder, Syndi Copeland

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilkins and supported by Commissioner Gustafson to approve the agenda for the July 20, 2020 Commission meeting. Motion carried.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Lange and supported by Commissioner Hodges to approve the May 18, 2020 Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The June 15, 2020 Executive Officer's meeting minutes is attached for information only.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

VI. **HOST (Oceana County)**

Commissioner McGlothin welcomed all to the Zoom meeting on July 20, 2020.

VII. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Commissioner McGlothin has nothing to report today.

VIII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Staff is still productive working from home. Gale Nobes is in the office three days a week; Syndi Copeland, two days a week.

Transportation – WMSRDC received word that the MDOT Service Development and New Technology (SDNT) grant application was approved in the amount of \$150,000. The grant was submitted on behalf of the Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) and Harbor Transit to conduct a West Michigan Regional Transit Systems Governance and Organization Transition Study. Once we receive the official Project Authorization, WMSRDC will hire a consultant to conduct the study, looking at the structure of each organization, how to increase productivity, and potential merger of the two systems.

WMSRDC Transportation staff has been discussing a potential update to the Transportation Public Involvement Plan and how the agency can be more inclusive in our efforts to engage the minority and underserved communities.

Economic Development – WMSRDC staff continue to work with communities within all five counties regarding potential EDA projects under the EDA CARES Act Disaster Relief Program funding. As part of the Federal CARES Act passed in late March, EDA was allocated \$1.5 billion to distribute through their regional partners. The Chicago Regional Office received \$225 million to distribute within their six-state region.

WMSRDC, along with Grand Valley State University, submitted an application for a grant to conduct a Market Analysis to better serve lakeshore entrepreneurs. The application was submitted for funding under the Disaster Relief Program dollars. If the \$87,000 grant is awarded, WMSRDC will be the fiduciary on behalf of GVSU.

WMSRDC also submitted a grant application for \$400,000 as part of the EDA CARES Act non-competitive Economic Development District grants. Tasks identified as part of the grant include the development of an Economic Development Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Plan, technical assistance including broadband facilitation and coordination, and organizational capacity support for coronavirus response. This is a 100% grant with no required matching funds. Grant awards are expected to be announced soon, and all expenses will be able to be backdated to July 1, 2020.

We hope to create a Regional Revolving Loan Fund for small business, gap financials or entrepreneurial startups. We had a CEDS committee meeting on Friday to discuss the next steps. Currently we are doing due diligence to complement existing RLFs and not duplicate. We would love to have any board members involved in this process. Fundraising will be necessary to raise the local match requirement. Please email Erin if you are interested.

Environmental – all of our construction projects have started up again. We have been funded for Little Cedar Creek, and we have been asked to continue looking into other projects for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding opportunities. We did submit an application for Little Flower Creek which was not successful.

Local Government Services –

The Michigan Infrastructure Council's Asset Management Self-Assessment Tool was delayed due to COVID. As a result of the delay, transportation program staff has agreed to help Stephen and Jamie begin this process, utilizing virtual platforms.

Other Activities –

Erin talked about the COVID-19 Response Plan for WMSRDC. It appears there will not be able to be in-person meetings any time soon. Everyone received our newsletter which revealed our new logo. WMSRDC will begin changing office supplies using the new logo.

IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amanda reviewed all financials and reported that going into our final quarter our cash remains strong. Motion was made by Commissioner Nesbary and supported by Commissioner Gustufson to approve the June 2020 financials. Motion carried.

There was a question regarding MERS. At this point WMSRDC is overfunded but looking into the future we could be underfunded in some of the scenarios they have put forth. Erin and Amanda are discussing strategies moving forward on how to maintain the 100% funded level.

X. NEW BUSINESS - There was no new business.

XI. ROUND TABLE

- Ken Johnson stated that although COVID has brought some setbacks, construction downtown is still moving forward. It also appears that paid parking at Pere Marquette Beach is doing what it was intended to do.
- Andrea Large mentioned the Community Foundation is hosting a match day to help our nonprofits with some expenses (email Andrea to get information)
- Dale Nesbary stated that the West Michigan Food Cooperative building will be up and running in about four months. Agribusiness industry in West Michigan will receive much help. August 24 college start is still on – all online classes and on campus classes.
- Burt Cooper is interested in the Broadband service, especially as there are no funds to provide this service to his community.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT - WMSRDC PROGRAM

There was no public comment.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Scolnik and supported by Commissioner Cooper to adjourn at 10:45 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: September 21, 2020 – Zoom


Bonnie McGlothlin, Chairperson

9-21-2020
Date

Erin Kuhn Digitally signed by Erin Kuhn
DN: cn=Erin Kuhn, c=US, ou=West Michigan Shoreline
Regional Development Commission, ou=West
Michigan Shoreline Regional Development
Commission, email=ekuhn@wmsrdc.org, ou=5
Date: 2020.12.03 15:27:51 -0500

Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

9/21/2020
Date