



May 24, 2021
10:00 AM – Microsoft Teams

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:01 AM by Chairperson Bonnie McGlothin

II. **ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

Commissioners Present

Lake County: Len Todd
Mason County: Ron Bacon
Muskegon County: Kay Beecham, Kim Cyr, Jennifer Hodges, Ken Johnson,
Bonnie McGlothin
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk, James Maike, James Rynberg
Oceana County: Ron Christians, Phil Morse
WMSRDC Appointees: Rich Houtteman, James Kelly, Andrea Large
Muskegon CC: Dale Nesbary

Commissioners Absent

Mason County: Lewis Squires, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County: Marcia Hovey-Wright, Rillastine Wilkins
West Shore CC: Crystal Young
Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Amanda Snyder, Joel Fitzpatrick, Syndi Copeland

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A roll call vote was unanimous, and motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to approve the agenda for the May 24, 2021, Commission meeting. Motion carried.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A roll call vote was unanimous, and motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Christians to approve the March 22, 2021, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried with one change to attendance.

The April 26, 2021, executive officer's meeting minutes are attached for information only.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no comments.

VI. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

By-laws were received by all. The meeting today was supposed to be in Lake County but due to COVID it was changed to Muskegon County.

VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics Policy – Please sign and return to Syndi

Transportation –

MDOT has approved SRF Consulting as the consultant for the Regional Transit Study. Work will begin on this project on June 1.

The Transportation Policy committee approved the FY2022 Unified Work Program (UWP), which is WMSRDC's MPO scope of work for FY 2022. Amanda has been working diligently to create our budget for this coming year. A portion of this budget is included in the UWP to be approved by MDOT and FHWA.

Economic Development –

The GVSU HUB Study was completed at the end of May by Public Sector Consultants.

EDA has received a \$3 billion allocation through the American Rescue Plan. As part of the Act, 25% of the \$3 billion is required to be spent on recovery and response to tourism and recreation, which is a new scope for EDA. EDA is currently writing the guidance and Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the dollars, which should be released in July. We expect multiple NOFOs for those dollars.

Environmental –

All NOAA projects are under way again at Lower Muskegon River, the Nature Preserve and Amoco site. One portion of the FY16 funds need to be spent by November, and then FY 19 will carry over for monitoring, planting, or repairing after the winter.

Great Lakes Area of Concern conference, hosted by EGLE, will take place here in Muskegon in September. WMSRDC will also be hosting the Michigan Association of Regions at the same time.

Michigan Infrastructure Council Asset Management Champion Program is underway with eight champions from our five county Region, including three WMSRDC staff members. The program is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Erin received word that Michigan State Police have received approval of our Hazard Mitigation grant application which was submitted in December 2019. WMSRDC awaits final signature from MSP before moving forward. These hazard mitigation plans should be able to start once the award documentation is signed.

VIII. FUNDING ASSISTANCE (2021-01 THROUGH 2021-9)

IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amanda presented the April 2021 financials.

A roll call vote was unanimous, and a motion was made by Commissioner Nesbary and supported by Commissioner Large to accept the April 2021 financials. Motion carried.

X. STAFF PRESENTATION – Joel Fitzpatrick, Transportation COVID Relief Dollars

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- Erin discussed the office reopening after Memorial Day. Someone will be in the office M-F 8-4:30, which are our typical hours.
- James Kelly – guidance on what level of support WMSRDC may be able to provide regarding Rescue Plan Funding? Erin stated that WMSRDC is hoping to provide guidance along with webinars/in-person discussions and educational opportunities once the full guidance is released from Treasury. DUNS and SAMS numbers need to be in place. Erin advised that a project list with priorities be developed by all.

XII. ROUND TABLE

- Ron Christians and Phil Morse will discuss being host in Oceana County
- Rich Houtemann stated that Consumers is actively talking with State leaders regarding broadband and simple applied processes for installation if a major project occurs.
- James Kelly stated that MSU is hiring a manager for the FARM process on MCC's campus, with interviews starting this afternoon.
- James Maike blessed with COVID 19 dollars and challenged on how to spend it – Newaygo County executive committee will work with leaders and legislation.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS

There were no public.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn at 10:58 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: July 26, 2021 – Teams or Oceana County


Bonnie McGlothlin, Chairperson

7-26-2021
Date


Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

7-26-2021
Date