



July 26, 2021
10:00 AM
Oceana County or Microsoft Teams*

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

II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes

Commissioners Present

Lake County:	Len Todd
Mason County:	Lewis Squires*, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County:	Kim Cyr, Jennifer Hodges*, Marcia Hovey-Wright*, Bonnie McGlothin
Newaygo County:	Bryan Kolk, James Maike, James Rynberg*
Oceana County:	Ron Christians, Phil Morse
WMSRDC Appointees:	Rich Houtteman*, James Kelly, Andrea Large
West Shore CC:	Crystal Young

Commissioners Absent

Mason County:	Ron Bacon
Muskegon County:	Ken Johnson, Rillastine Wilkins
Muskegon CC:	Dale Nesbary

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Kolk to approve the agenda for the July 26, 2021, Commission meeting with the change of the Staff Presentation. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Large and supported by Commissioner Winczewski to approve the Commission meeting minutes of May 24, 2021. Motion carried.

The June 28, 2021, executive officer's meeting minutes are attached for information only.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner McGlothin talked about the 50th Anniversary newsletter. Syndi will mail out a copy to those joining online. In lieu of celebrating the 50th anniversary last summer, program information was included in this newsletter. Erin presented an overview of this. Erin will also be presenting this to each of the county boards this fall.

VII. STAFF PRESENTATION

Stephen Carlson, Shoreline Land Use and Resiliency Plan (SLURP) Presentation

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Erin has been asked to sign letters of support regarding the how the state will be spending their ARPA dollars. The Board is unanimous that Erin as Executive Director may write these letters.

ARPA Local Government Funding - Erin met with Oceana and Newaygo helping them understand how to access these local ARPA funds. The Michigan DTMB put out a deadline of July 27, 2021, which is just a recommended deadline. Communities do still need to fill out the form, get their DUNS, SAMS, SIGMA number, and other requirements to submit their letter. The deadline to allocate funds is December, 2026, and the deadline to expend the funds is December, 2026.

WMSRDC is working with MSU Extension and the Michigan Association of Regions to put together local government forums. There will be one large, in-person forum for our five county region this fall to present best practices for spending this money.

Transportation –

Regional Transit Study – SRF Consulting has been chosen for this project. The project started the first part of June with a general meeting between SRF and WMSRDC to begin research. In early July, WMSRDC, SRF, MATS and Harbor Transit met to perform a SWAT analysis. A list of stakeholders was provided to the consultant to begin the interview process. The consultant will also research the organization structure of both organizations as well as similar organizations across the country for comparison and to offer suggestions.

Economic Development –

EDA released their Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) from ARPA. Syndi will forward this to our local government organizations. Questions may be directed to Erin or Stephen.

Environmental –

Kathy Evans, Environmental Program Manager, has announced her retirement as of December 31, 2021. Interviews begin in the next two weeks, and WMSRDC hopes to hire by September 2021 for training. Kathy will be greatly missed. All other projects are moving along very well.

Local Govt Services –

The Hazard Mitigation grant award has finally made its way to WMSRDC. The grant documentation has been signed and the project has begun for Lake, Mason, and Oceana counties. All three hazard mitigation plans have expired so WMSRDC will be working as fast as possible to finalize these projects.

Michigan Infrastructure Champion program has been completed. Eight from our region completed this program, including Commissioner Winczewski. MIC is hoping to continue the development of training for Asset Management. Commissioner Winczewski commented on the program and the great training regarding these processes. It makes total sense for maintaining asset management as opposed to emergent management.

Kay Beecham, City of Norton Shores, passed away. WMSRDC staff will be present at her funeral on Tuesday, July 28. A moment of silence was expressed in her passing.

IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amanda presented the June 2021 financials. Since the last board meeting, two projects

have wrapped up. The GVSU HUB Study was completed with \$10,000 going back to EDA, due to cost savings from the consultant. The Coastal Reforestation Tree Planting project was completed with \$20.00 going back to the United States Forest Service.

Cash remains in a good position as we finish up nine months of FY 21. FY22 budget will be completed this week. FY21 Amendment will be done the following week.

Motion was made by Commissioner Christians and supported by Commissioner Kelly to accept the June 2021 financials. Motion carried.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- No new Business

XI. ROUND TABLE

- Commissioner Christians welcomed all to the renovated building.
- Commissioner Morse stated that after conversing with Erin and others from his county about skilled trade training, a bigger conversation formed with the EDA rep. A work group has been formed to meet Thursday, July 29, regarding work force diversity for the benefit of county and people.
- Commissioner Cyr stated that the 50th newsletter will be very helpful for him.
- Commissioner Kelly gave an overview of the FARM program at MCC under the guidance of MSU. He stated that an educator from MSU will be available this fall to reach out to local and regional food producers.
- Commissioner Large – Marty Gerencer held a webinar, to present FARM. Commissioner Large thanked Erin for going out and meeting with the counties for these guidelines on ARPA.
- Commissioner Kolk thanked Erin for coming to present to his county regarding ARPA. This drew a large group of people who weren't getting involved previously. He gave an update on Dragontrail, a 47 mile non-motorized trail around Hardy Dam. Newaygo County hopes to put on a forum regarding the gypsy moth situation.
- Commissioner Maike stated it's nice to see our new members and thanked them for participating. Thanks for the 50th newsletter. West Central County Alliance meets tonight at the Dragontrail trailhead.
- Commissioner Morse is grateful for the 50th newsletter. His question regarding the difference between general funds and grants funds was answered by Amanda.
- Commissioner Squires talked about the broadband project; the growth of the county's budget over the last 16 years; the airport runway; and the courthouse work.
- Commissioner Todd stated that one benefit of COVID, was the activity on the ORV trail went up 46%. Lake County partnered with Webber Township to add an ORV training facility which will cost approximately \$750,000. He mentioned upcoming work on the airport.
- Commissioner Rynberg thanked WMSRDC for support and stated that the City of Fremont survived the Gerber Baby Food Festival.
- Commissioner Winczewski – City of Ludington City Council will be discussing a national railway grant. This would improve the railway to Baldwin. This grant will be in cooperation with other entities. They are also applying for a grant to replace a dock in the municipal marina through DNR.
- Commissioner Young stated that the WSCC campus is open. In-person and online classes remain about 50/50 attendance. College for kids this next week provided by generous donations. Large enrollment.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS

There were no public.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Kolk to adjourn at 11:45 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: September 20, 2021 – Muskegon County



Bonnie McGlothlin, Chairperson

9-20-2021
Date



Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

9-20-2021
Date