



**WEST MI
SHORELINE**
Regional Development Commission

March 28, 2022
10:00 AM
Mason County

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

II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes

Commissioners Present

Lake County:	Len Todd
Mason County:	Lewis Squires, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County:	Kim Cyr, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bonnie McGlothlin
Newaygo County:	Bryan Kolk, James Maike, James Rynberg
Oceana County:	Ron Christians, Phil Morse
Muskegon CC:	Dale Nesbary
WMSRDC Appointees:	Rich Houtteman, Andrea Large

Commissioners Absent

Mason County:	Ron Bacon
Muskegon County:	Jennifer Hodges, Ken Johnson, Roger Morgenstern, Rillastine Wilkins
West Shore CC:	Crystal Young
WMSRDC Appointees:	James Kelly

Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Amanda Snyder, Jamie Way
Stephen Carlson, Robert Johnson

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Cyr to approve the agenda for the March 28, 2022. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Houtteman and supported by Commissioner Kolk to approve the Commission meeting minutes of January 24, 2022, as amended. Motion carried.

Commissioner Christians asked for a change in the round table under item 12 to “will likely” recommend the removal of the Crystal Valley Dam as the seven property owners are okay with the overall process.

The February 28, 2022, executive officer’s meeting minutes are attached for information.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments on the WMSRDC agenda.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner McGlothlin stated that there was a meeting on Friday, March 25, which Erin will address in her report, as well as the officer's meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Erin thanked Mason County for hosting and providing treats.

There is an amended copy of the Executive Director's report which has been provided.

Transportation –

WMSRDC met with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the annual pre unified work program on February 17, 2022. This is mostly an audit of the transportation program to discuss the previous year, and upcoming events for the next fiscal year. This is the kickoff for preparing the budget for FY 2023. The unified work program is due to MDOT on June 1 and submitted to Federal Highways on July 1. WMSRDC expects to receive approval of the document prior October 1, 2022.

Erin addressed a question regarding climate change by Commissioner Hovey-Wright. The ruling for how this will roll out has not been decided. Air Quality for Muskegon County has been in non-attainment, but WMSRDC continues to address these issues.

Economic Development – Lee Shirey sent an email about a month ago regarding ARPA funds available for coal communities. Stephen and Erin investigated this, and applications were expected by April 1. They are still trying to find communities that need these funds. Erin is currently working on developing a 13 county project focused on the agriculture and food processing sector.

All of the EDA ARPA dollars have been allocated.

Stephen answered a question by Commissioner Morse regarding a grant application for a study in Oceana County.

Environmental – WMSRDC and Muskegon River Watershed Assembly had a misunderstanding regarding the management of a project. A meeting was held on March 25 where both agencies came to an understanding, and look forward to future collaborative projects.

Michigan Infrastructure Council had a mini conference with graduates from last year's program. Commissioner Winczewski gave a relevant presentation at the conference providing great information for small communities to become involved. A second Champions Program will begin in April.

VIII. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – ACTION ITEM

Amanda gave an overview of the financials for the month ending February 2022. There was a change in end date for GLC/NOAA projects due to a no-cost amendment. A few specific questions were answered regarding the financials.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nesbary and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to approve the February 2022 financials. Motion carried.

IX. STAFF PRESENTATION – INFORMATION

Stephen Carlson and Robert Johnson

X. NEW BUSINESS

Stephen gave information regarding the White River Watershed Partnership Impact Study in Mason, Oceana, and Muskegon counties. If funded, the study will be conducted by GVSU Seidman School of Business. Stephen has submitted applications to the community foundations in each of these counties to help fund the \$22,000 needed to complete this study.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS

There were no comments on WMSRDC programs.

XII. ROUND TABLE

- Andrea Large thanked Erin for coming to a meeting between the Chamber and the County to bring together municipal and educational leaders to talk about the updates on the ARPA funds. She also talked about information on the Investing in Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA). Erin provided a lot of resources on appropriate uses for the funds and the townships have been contacting her ever since.
- Ron Christians is continuing to work with WMSRDC, and specifically Fallon, to contract with the Spicer Group to do a feasibility study of the Crystal Valley dam. Honeywell did a study regarding the HVAC in the 60 year old county jail building. The County is looking into the possibility of a new county jail. Oceana County is nearly finished with interviews for County Administrator.
- Kim Cyr stated that Sky West has applied to the DOT to eliminate their air service at Muskegon County Airport, as well as 29 of their 49 locations. The DOT is looking to replace that air service.
- Marcia Hovey-Wright – Muskegon County is in the process of buying Baker College with ARPA money. Dunes Harbor Park is ready to open May 19. This is a non-motorized park. It was funded totally without taxpayer money. Finally, both of Muskegon's transportation and mental health programs are potentially transferring to authorities.
- Bryan Kolk talked about a catastrophe IT simulation recently performed in his county. They will be coming up with a new cloud base recovery system. The study/survey Stephen and Robert talked about is interesting, and he's anxious to see the results.
- Andrea Large mentioned that the community foundation is partnering with Ludington Mass Transit Authority to fund a pilot program for 60+ years and those with disabilities transportation to medical appointments.
- James Maike stated that the Commissioner's had a legislative conference last week in Lansing. There were fourteen legislators there, including Terry Sabo. Several organizations in Newaygo County are making the housing issues a top priority.
- Dale Nesbary – MCC recently signed a document bring on board Cloud Strike, a cyber security platform which is quite expensive, but will help with all the junk emails they receive. Consumers Energy provided a \$238,000 grant to help with STEM students and work force training programs on campus. Dale retires on June 30. A new president should be named by the April or May board meeting.
- James Rynberg – The City of Fremont closed a street to accommodate Nestle Gerber truck traffic. In this agreement Fremont received seven acres of buildable land to turn into housing. The city was approached by a private industrial park developer who have purchased and will develop plans for Fremont.
- Lewis Squires mentioned that Mason County and the City of Ludington are working diligently to have a cooperative spirit regarding economic development concerns in Mason County. Mason is looking to improve the housing and broadband situations.
- Led Todd stated that after much discussion between Commissioner's in Lake County, it was decided to take proposals from within the county to use the ARPA funds. The jail is being considered for a juvenile housing facility.
- Kathy Winczewski shared that half of their ARPA funds went to the water treatment

plant. It was decided that a community meeting would be held to decide on the other half. Ten items were voted on. The Hazard Mitigation plan is very crucial for Mason County.

- Erin mentioned that an email with a survey will be going out to the board and all local governments in the region regarding how communities are using the ARPA funds. The survey should only take about five minutes.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Maike and supported by Commissioner Cyr to adjourn at 11:51 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: **May 23, 2022** – Lake County


Bonnie McGlothlin, Chairperson


Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

6/27/2022
Date

6-27-2022
Date