



November 28, 2022 - 10:00 AM
Newaygo County

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

II. **ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

Commissioners Present

Lake County: Len Todd
Mason County: Ron Bacon, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County: Kim Cyr, Jennifer Hodges, Bonnie McGlothin, Roger Morgenstern
Newaygo County: James Rynberg
Oceana County: Ron Christians, Phil Morse
Muskegon CC: John Selmon
West Shore CC: Wendy Wells
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly

Commissioners Absent

Mason County: Lewis Squires
Muskegon County: Rachel Gorman, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Rillastine Wilkins
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk, James Maike
WMSRDC Appointees: Andrea Large, Vacant

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

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Bacon to approve the agenda for the November 28, 2022. Motion carried.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Winczewski and supported by Commissioner Bacon to approve the Commission meeting minutes of September 19, 2022. Motion carried.

The October 24, 2022, executive officer's meeting minutes are attached for information.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Rynberg introduced Todd Blake, City Manager who gave a welcome and a few words about the City of Fremont.

VI. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Commissioner McGlothin thanked Commissioner Rynberg for hosting and commented on the new Aldi's.

A. Resolution 2023-2, FY23 Planning Grant Matching Funds – Erin stated that since 1978 we have been an Economic Development District (EDD). The local match requirement for this three-

year planning grant is 40%. Historically, our local match has been 30%. This is an increase of \$40,000 over a three-year period. EDA local match rates are determined by county per-capita income and unemployment rates compared to national rates. After some questions and discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Morse and supported by Commissioner Bacon to approve Resolution 2023-2. Motion carried with roll call.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Transportation – WMSRDC has been authorized to purchase non-motorized trail counters. These are available for communities to use. WMSRDC also received FY23 Air Quality approval. We are currently interviewing two candidates to replace Amy Haack, who is retiring on January 1, 2023.

Economic Development – WMSRDC held a regional broadband meeting on November 10, 2022. As a result, those in attendance wanted WMSRDC to continue regional broadband coordination and facilitation going forward. Funding for this effort will be written into our three-year EDD planning grant. The FCC has released new broadband coverage maps and is seeking input from across the country regarding discrepancies in the maps. WMSRDC will be working with county representatives to coordinate a regional effort to promote this opportunity.

November 17, 2022, WMSRDC had its EDA peer review. The peer review is required every three years. It consists of an EDA review of our Economic Development District activities as well as facilitates a review of a peer EDD from within the Chicago EDA five-state region. This time WMSRDC was paired with the Northwest Indiana Council of Governments.

Environmental – WMSRDC wraps up the NOAA/GLC regional partnership this week. These projects include Lower Muskegon River, Amoco, MERES, and Muskegon Lake Management Plan. We did have a significant cost saving late in the grant, which was not able to be reallocated, but despite that, all projects exceeded expectations. Erin was able to answer several questions about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / WMSRDC Regional Partnership regarding dam projects as well as details about the NERR.

Local Government Services – We continue to work on the Newaygo County Recreation Plan, the Oceana County Master and Recreation Plan Update, and Hazard Mitigation.

Other Activities – The third class of Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) Asset Management Champions program concluded in November bringing the total number of graduated AM Champions to 215. The next program begins in January 2023.

MIC asked Erin to speak at the Asset Management North American Conference in Denver the first week of October. The MIC was nominated for three awards and received the Project Achievement Award while there.

Commissioner Hodges and Erin presented at the Newaygo County board meeting in October.

The FY 2022 audit began today.

VIII. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – ACTION ITEM

Amanda gave an overview of the preliminary September financials and new projects.

IX. STAFF PRESENTATION – INFORMATION

Jamie Way, GIS Specialist, gave a presentation on the cemetery projects and the MRWA Tree Grant project.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Erin thanked those leaving our board for their service. Those not returning are Ron Christians, Len

Todd, James Maike, Rillastine Wilkins and possibly two WMSRDC Appointees. Officer elections will take place at the January 2023 meeting.

XI. ROUND TABLE

- Commissioner Bacon stated that Mason County will be looking for a new county administrator. Fabian Knizacky will be retiring in February 2024.
- Commissioner Christians stated he will miss all. Ron serves on the Mason-Oceana Dispatch board, and they have now added Newaygo and Lake County. In case of phone line breakdowns, Newaygo and Lake have redundancy built into electrical systems. The dispatch board also voted to add encryption safety to their radio system to hear tracking.
- Commissioner Kelly stated that new commissioner and hybrid training begins this week. They also have a new legislator training.
- Commissioner Morgenstern – Mona Shores, City of Roosevelt Park and Mona Shores public schools in Norton Shores will be having a joint meeting soon. This is done regularly to increase communication and coordination.
- Commissioner Morse presumes he will still be appointed for the WMSRDC board but wasn't sure about the other appointee. Our bylaws state that county reps on the WMSRDC board must be a commissioner. The City of Shelby is working on an 80-house building project. Half are for Peterson Farms and half are affordable housing for others.
- Commissioner Rynberg stated that the City of Fremont so appreciates the tree program which replaced their older trees with a variety of new trees. United Way of the Lakeshore has cleaned cemetery headstones so WMSRDC may be able to utilize them for future cemetery projects if needed.
- Commissioner Todd stated that he has enjoyed his years on the board.
- Commissioner Winszewski stated that the City of Ludington is in the process of hiring the chief of police. Ludington will be voting on a marijuana ordinance which is extremely controversial. Ludington will have a new mayor in January 2023.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Bacon and seconded by Commissioner Kelly to adjourn at 11:51 AM.

NEXT MEETING: **January 23, 2023** – Muskegon County


Bonnie McGlothlin, Chairperson


Erin Kuhn, Executive Director

1-23-2023
Date

1-23-2023
Date