



January 23, 2023
10:00 AM – Muskegon County

I. CALL TO ORDER – 10:07 AM by Chairperson Bonnie McGlothin

II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes

Commissioners Present:

Lake County: Clyde Welford
Mason County: Ron Bacon, Lewis Squires, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County: Kim Cyr, Rachel Gorman, Michelle Hazekamp, Jennifer Hodges,
Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bonnie McGlothin, Gary Nelund
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk, James Rynberg
Oceana County: Tim Beggs, Phil Morse
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly, Andrea Large
Muskegon CC: John Selmon
West Shore CC: Wendy Wells

Commissioners Absent:

Newaygo County: Paul Mellema

Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Amanda Snyder, Syndi Copeland,
Eric VanDop, Jenni Wheeler

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Hodges to approve the agenda for the January 23, 2023, Commission meeting. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Winczewski and supported by Commissioner Squires to approve the November 28, 2022, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The December 19, 2022, Executive Officer's meeting minutes are for information only.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Kelly nominated Commissioner Hodges as Chairperson, Commissioner Winczewski as Vice-Chairperson, and Commissioner Rynberg as Secretary. The nomination was supported by Commissioner Kolk. There were no other nominations. A roll call vote unanimously approved the nominated slate of officers.

VII. WMSRDC APPOINTEES – ACTION ITEM

The two current appointees, James Kelly and Andrea Large, are willing to continue on the board. Jonathan Wilson from DTE Energy, is the officer's recommendation to fill the vacant WMSRDC appointee position. Motion was made by Commissioner Hodges and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to approve the nomination of James Kelly, Andrea Large, and Jonathan Wilson for a two-year term as WMSRDC appointees. Motion carried.

VIII. AUDIT PRESENTATION – BRICKLEY DELONG – ACTION ITEM

Erin welcomed the auditor's from Brickley DeLong, Eric VanDop and Jenni Wheeler. The audit was sent Friday morning by email for the presentation.

The Independent Auditors Report states the opinion of the auditor. This was an outstanding and very clean audit.

Single Audit of Federal Programs is due to the Commission receiving \$750,000 or more in federal funding. Brickley DeLong distributed the SAS-14 letter which gives required information to the board stating there were no finds or exceptions in the Single Audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner McGlothlin to approve the FY2022 Audit. A roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner Hodges did not have anything to report.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

B. The official NADO Award certificate was included in the board packet.

Transportation – There have been some staffing changes in the transportation program. Robert Johnson has transferred from the economic development program to transportation as a part-time planning aid. After he graduates from Grand Valley State University this spring, he will become a full-time transportation planner. The second person, who was supposed to start in February, recently notified the Commission that he will not be taking the job.

The US Census released 2020 Urbanized Boundaries in late December. The WMSRDC region has three Small Urban designations including Ludington, Fremont, and the White Lake area.

Economic Development – WMSRDC was awarded another 3-year district planning grant from the Economic Development Administration. Due to updated census figures, the Commission was able to qualify for 30% local match instead of the original 40%.

Environment Program – WMSRDC projects are moving slowly due to the season. Staff is considering new opportunities available through both federal and state funding.

Local Government Services – All of our local planning projects are moving along as expected.

Other – WMSRDC will be partnering with the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and Grand Valley Metro Council to host a regional MIC 30-year

infrastructure strategy workshop this spring. At the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) in December, Erin was voted in as Vice Chair of the MIC.

XI. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amanda presented the December 2022 financials. Cash remains in a very strong position.

Motion was made by Commissioner Large and supported by Commissioner McGlothin to accept the December 2022 financials. Motion carried.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A detailed discussion, along with questions and answers, ensued regarding WMSRDC's contract with Brickley Delong and whether we should go out for RFPs for next year's audit. It was decided that WMSRDC should get a quote from Brickley Delong for a multi-year contract.

Motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to gain a quote from Brickley Delong for a multi-year contract. Motion carried.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS

XIV. ROUND TABLE

- Commissioner Bacon stated Mason County is looking for a new administrator.
- Commissioner Beggs spoke on Stony Creek Marshville Dam.
- Commissioner Cyr mentioned a change in leadership at the airport. White River Township is addressing issues with solar power.
- Commissioner Gorman talked about new leadership at the City of Muskegon.
- Commissioner Hazekamp introduced herself as a newly elected county commissioner.
- Commissioner Hodges stated that Muskegon Township is making some good changes. They have recently created their new Parks and Recreation plan.
- Commissioner Kelly stated that the school of engineering and planning has a new opportunity in Scottville.
- Commissioner Kolk commented that the Newaygo County Recreation Plan, written by WMSRDC, is completed.
- Commissioner Large talked about the new programs taking place in Scottville. Ludington's 150th anniversary is coming up this summer, and the Foundation will be providing money to help with the celebration.
- Mayor Nelund stated he is the alternate for Roger Morgenstern. The city of Norton Shores is identifying projects to spend their ARPA funds.
- Commissioner Morse stated Stephen is working on their Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan. He is taking an MSU class on the lakes.
- Commissioner Rynberg started on the board the same year he became Mayor (2004). City of Fremont has a winter fest this weekend.
- Commissioner Selmon mentioned some talent pipeline opportunities. Nursing program bachelors and teaching bachelors is investigating how to partner with a four-year program.
- Commissioner Squires mentioned a commissioner's work session tomorrow where they will discuss the development of Sr. citizen programs, a \$1M expansion to the fairgrounds, school resource security officers, economic development and broadband development. Mason County is looking for an emergency manager and

administrator.

- Commissioner Welford is new to our board and looking forward to determining how he can help Lake County.
- Commissioner Wells informed the board that the first RN apprenticeship in the State of Michigan had a 100% pass rate on certification program. They are looking to develop a new robotics program and are discussing the teacher pipeline shortages. West Shore does have a preschool teacher program and they want to develop more.
- Commissioner Winczewski spoke about the 150th birthday of Ludington in June. Chief of police hire backed out, so they are back to square one. Ludington has many new housing developments completed and upcoming.
- Erin mentioned a new board member training, which will be available to our more seasoned members as well. This will be in person on February 21 and 22. Information will be emailed soon.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner McGlothlin and supported by Commissioner Bacon to adjourn at 11:12 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: March 27, 2023 – Mason County



Jennifer Hodges, Chairperson
03/27/2023

Date



Erin Kuhn, Executive Director
3-27-2023

Date