



July 24, 2023
10:00 AM – Oceana County
Grace Adventures, The Keep Building

I. CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 AM by Chairperson Jennifer Hodges

II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes

Commissioners Present:

Lake County: Clyde Welford
Mason County: Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County: Kim Cyr, Michelle Hazekamp, Jennifer Hodges,
Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bonnie McGlothlin, Roger Morgenstern
Newaygo County: James Rynberg
Oceana County: Tim Beggs, Phil Morse
Muskegon CC: Beth Dick
West Shore CC: Wendy Wells
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly

Commissioners Absent:

Mason County: Ron Bacon, Lewis Squires
Muskegon County: Rachel Gorman
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema
WMSRDC Appointees: Andrea Large, Jonathan Wilson

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Cyr to approve the agenda for July 24, 2023. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Welford to approve the May 22, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Executive Officer's meeting minutes for June 26, 2023, is for information only.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS - There was no public comment.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – There was no report this month.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Transportation – The Regional Transit Study is complete. Erin presented the study to the Muskegon County board at their regular meeting on July 13. The study will also be presented to regional stakeholders at an upcoming Transportation Policy Committee meeting in August.

Economic Development – Michigan Highspeed Internet (MIHI) Office hosted a meeting on July 18 from 5:00-7:00 PM in Newaygo County. The digital equity plan is available for comment.

WMSRDC applied to the Economic Development Administration (EDA), National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), and International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to have an economic development fellow placed in West Michigan. The organizations have funds to place 62 fellows across the country to help regions advance initiatives they don't have the capacity to do on their own. The WMSRDC application focused on the Ag Tech and Regional Food Systems Initiative, which was previously not funded through the Build Back Better funding. WMSRDC made it through the first round. The second round entails an interview with the national committee to further define our project idea.

Environment Program – WMSRDC is wrapping up projects at MERES under the Great Lakes Commission NOAA Regional Partnership. The final project under that grant at the Boys and Girls Club will conclude later this summer/fall.

Local Government Services – The draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates for the counties of Lake, Mason, and Oceana are scheduled to be completed by fall. Once the draft is complete, Michigan State Police and Federal Emergency Management Administration Chicago Region will review for approval. They should be completed by year end.

Other – The Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) will be completing the 30-year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy by the end of 2023.

VIII. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright to approve the June 2023 financials. After a roll call vote, the motion carried.

Amanda presented the June 2023 financials. Nine months into the fiscal year, everything is in order, and cash is in a great position. Amanda is currently working on the FY23 budget amendment and wrapping up the FY24 budget.

Audit Engagement Update – With the help of the officers, WMSRDC negotiated a three-year engagement with a 5% increase over each year, down from the original proposal of a five-year engagement with a 6% increase over each year. WMSRDC appreciates Brickley DeLong's great reputation within local government, and willingness to negotiate.

IX. STAFF PRESENTATION – Information

Grant Proposals and Future Funding Opportunities – Erin Kuhn and Amanda Snyder

X. NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS - There was no public comment.

XII. ROUND TABLE

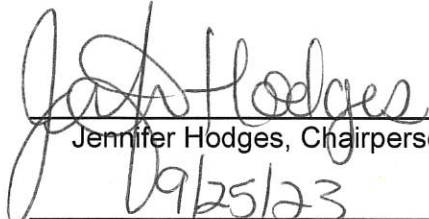
- Commissioner Cyr – The 2023 Muskegon Air Fair was a huge success. There has been no official announcement as of yet, but out at the wastewater plant there are two thousand acres that may become solar panels in the near future.
- Commissioner Dick – Muskegon Community College is currently focusing on enrollment, which was down about 6 to 7 percent in FY 23. MCC hopes a lot of the initiatives coming from the State of Michigan will boost enrollment. Lowering the age of the Reconnect Program to 21, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship which allows new graduates to receive up to \$2,750 scholarship for three years, and lowering the GPA requirements in the Muskegon Promise should all help.
- Commissioner Hazekamp – Announced the Muskegon County Fair this coming week.
- Commissioner Hodges – The Cannabis Festival was a success for the second year. She heard rumors of good attendance. Traffic control and parking were very much improved.
- Commissioner Hovey-Wright – The parks board development continues to move along. Dune Harbor Park, both north and south, are open with parking lots and restrooms at the entrances. Any further development is in the hands of the parks board. A meeting will be held on August 1 to discuss the Muskegon County Airport. MATS is discussing the outcome of the Transit Authority Study. There will be a work session with the county board tomorrow.
- Commissioner Kelly – There is a posted position, a Water Use Irrigation Educator, to serve the five-county region. He encouraged the support of the agriculture community by attending county fairs.
- Commissioner Morgenstern – Norton Shores has the Arts and Drafts Fair on August 19 at Ross Park. Mona Lake water ski group will be performing as well. A new pavilion has been completed through ARPA funds. And, as a reminder, Erin's review summary needs to be sent to all board members before the September board meeting.
- Commissioner Morse – Thanks to Commissioner Beggs for setting up the meeting place at Grace Adventures. Electric Forest went great. Thankful for the presentations to help him understand more of what WMSRDC does.
- Commissioner Rynberg – Fremont's Baby Food Festival was a success. The county fair and harvest festival are coming up. The tree planting program in downtown Fremont has been so successful and has encouraged many store front improvements.
- Commissioner Welford – Trout-o-Rama was successful. A new IT employee has been hired for the county commissioners. Lake County received a grant to house 30-40 juvenile inmates in the former TRV building. Big thanks to Robert Johnson for coming up to Lake County to discuss the situation with the street crossing.
- Commissioner Wells – West Shore Community College resurfaced the tech center parking lot this summer. They began a partnership with the Buckle-in-Driver programs. And they offered many kids programs from June through August.

- Commissioner Winczewski – The pay for parking was voted down at the council meeting. A unified development program would help develop zoning. They need more public input on this. There is a sewer dilemma on Ludington Avenue, which is an MDOT street. The city is discussing a low interest rate loan to help people replace lines between the road and house.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Cyr to adjourn at 11:33 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2023 – Muskegon County



Jennifer Hodges, Chairperson
9/25/23

Date



Erin Kuhn, Executive Director
9-25-2023

Date