



November 27, 2023
10:00 AM – Newaygo County
Medical Care Facility

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:07 AM by Chairperson Jennifer Hodges

II. **ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

Commissioners Present:

Mason County: Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County: Michelle Hazekamp, Rachel Gorman, Jennifer Hodges,
Bonnie McGlothlin, Roger Morgenstern
Newaygo County: Paul Mellema, James Rynberg
Oceana County: Tim Beggs
Muskegon CC: Beth Dick
West Shore CC: Wendy Wells
WMSRDC Appointees: Andrea Large, Jonathan Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Lake County: Clyde Welford
Mason County: Ron Bacon, Lewis Squires
Muskegon County: Kim Cyr, Marcia Hovey-Wright
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk
Oceana County: Phil Morse
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly

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

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to approve the agenda for November 27, 2023. Motion carried.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Mellema and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to approve the September 25, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Executive Officer's meeting minutes for October 23, 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 – WMSRDC is moving forward on the Regional Transit Study by visiting each of the local units of government who have been involved in the study so far. Staff have attended the work sessions for Muskegon Township, the cities of Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. Tonight, staff will attend the work session for the City of Roosevelt Park. Tomorrow staff will attend the work session for the City of Norton Shores. The purpose of these visits is to ask each local unit to pass a resolution of intent to be part of an authority if it were to be created. This would bring them to the table to put together draft articles of incorporation which would then go back to the communities for final approval.

Economic Development – WMSRDC was chosen for interviews for the economic development Fellow. James Kelly sat in on the interviews for two candidates. One candidate was local, and one was from Tulsa. Either candidate would be great, and we should know by the end of the week who will be selected. The final match will be announced in the second week of December with the start date in January.

Environmental Program – Fallon has been in the process of writing and applying for several grant opportunities. She will be presenting today.

Local Government Services –

PA 115 Material Management Plans (to replace the existing County Solid Waste Management Plans) – The State still has not sent out the letter kicking off this process, but they have stated it will be soon. A proposal has been sent to each of the county administrators asking them to consider WMSRDC as their county's designated planning agency to help develop the plans for the five counties. One regional plan for all five counties has also been encouraged. Erin has not heard back from the administrators regarding the proposal. If you could reach out to your administrators in support of WMSRDC writing these plans, this would be appreciated.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – The State asked FEMA for an extension of their 2019 grants. WMSRDC was not informed of this, so staff pushed heavily to finish Lake, Mason, and Oceana draft plans. The plans are at the State for review, and the extension just gives WMSRDC more time to complete these. The county administrators have been made aware of this.

Other Activities– Under the Michigan Infrastructure Council, there is another round of Champions beginning in January. Please encourage people to join.

The FY23 audit began today.

VIII. PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amanda gave an overview of preliminary financials and stated that cash is in a good position at the end of the year.

IX. STAFF PRESENTATION - Fallon Chabala, Environmental Program Manager

X. NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS - No public attended the meeting.

XII. ROUND TABLE

- Commissioner Dick – Enrollment at MCC for the fall semester is about even compared to last year. The winter semester is expected to increase. November 3 there was a

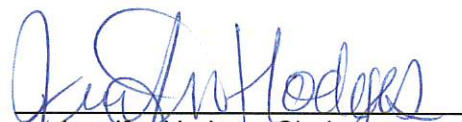
celebration of a \$200,000 grant they received from Howmet to purchase three robots for the downtown technology center.


- Commissioner Gorman – City of Muskegon survived the road diet. The PUD for the housing development at Windward Pointe was approved. Three new Commissioners were elected in January.
- Jennifer Hodges - Muskegon Township will hold its second annual tree lighting tonight.
- Commissioner Large – Mason County has formed a housing alliance and is educating the community on housing needs. They are trying to align structure with guidelines and rules for property usage. A community grant was applied for through the State of Michigan and they should hear back in December about the award.
- Commissioner McGlothlin stated that she has been elected mayor of Muskegon Heights. She will be very busy.
- Commissioner Mellema – Thanks for coming and enjoying the lovely space. The county administrator, Christopher Wren, and staff have worked two years on a wage study which was completed in October. Significant raises were awarded. There was a legacy payment for time served. Employee retention is the biggest focus currently.
- Commissioner Morgenstern – The city administrator search is nearing the home stretch with two finalists. Walsh Municipal Services out of the St. Joseph area has done a great job with community profile, and there were about 20 candidates. An offer should be made by the first of the year. ARPA money has been used for a multi-purpose building at Ross Park overlooking Mona Lake, and the construction of two pickleball courts at Ross Park. Engineering is being completed on a new off-road pedestrian pathway connecting Lake Harbor Park to Hoffmaster State Park.
- Commissioner Rynberg mentioned previously a housing development they are working on in Fremont. This looks positive.
- Commissioner Wells – West Shore Community College enrollment continues to increase. Over Thanksgiving break, 20 acres of trees were cleared for a driving range pad for CDL, emergency vehicle and other types of driver training. The college is looking for interested CDL/truck driving companies who may like to train at their facility.
- Commissioner Wilson – the State recently passed legislation related to energy which will accelerate the transition to clean energy, increase spending for energy efficiency programs, and expand the roll of the Public Service Commission as it relates to siting renewables. Secondly, as the season changes, if you know of anyone who needs assistance, have them reach out to DTE.
- Commissioner Winczewski – A new councilperson has been appointed to the City of Ludington. Ludington received an EGLE high water infrastructure grant to shore up the area around their intake for their drinking water.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Large and supported by Commissioner Wilson to adjourn at 11:17 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: January 22, 2024 – Muskegon County


Jennifer Hodges, Chairperson
1/22/2024
Date


Erin Kuhn, Executive Director
1/22/2024
Date