



September 25, 2023
10:00 AM – Muskego County
WMSRDC Conference Room

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

II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Mason County: Ron Bacon
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk
WMSRDC Appointees: Andrea Large, James Kelly

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Hovey-Wright and supported by Commissioner Morgenstern to approve the agenda for September 25, 2023. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Winczewski and supported by Commissioner Morgenstern to approve the July 24, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Executive Officer's meeting minutes for August 28, 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.

A. A motion was made by Commissioner McGlothlin and supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright to approve Resolution 2024-1, Contract/Document Authorization Policy. Motion carried.

- B. A motion was made by Commissioner Squires and supported by Commissioner Cyr to approve the FY2024 Full Board and Executive Officer's meeting schedules. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright to approve the Executive Director's review and merit. Roll call was taken, and motion carried.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Transportation – All but two of the FY 24 project authorizations from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) have been received. The rest are expected this week.

Economic Development – WMSRDC received great news about the Economic Development Fellow Program which has been discussed at previous meetings. We have made it to the top 100 applicants and are hopeful to move into interviews next month.

Environmental Program – There are many Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) that have been or will be released. WMSRDC is working diligently to put together projects to apply for these programs. Fallon is back from maternity leave.

Local Government Services – WMSRDC has received many cemetery mapping projects. Stephen will be sending the draft hazard mitigation plans this week to Michigan State Police for them to start their review process. We will be on track for those to be approved by the end of this calendar year.

Other – The Grand Valley Metro Council has invited our board to come together with their board to do some networking on November 9, 2023, at Lake Michigan Whitecaps Ballpark.

Muskegon County is putting together a county parks commission under enabling legislation PA 261. As part of this, the Regional Commission Chairperson (or designee) is granted a position on the parks commission, as long as the chairperson is within the same county. A motion was made by Commissioner Hovey-Wright and supported by Commissioner Cyr for Chairperson Hodges to fill this position. Motion carried.

VIII. FY 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Amanda discussed the various amendments for the FY23 budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Welford to approve the FY23 Budget Amendment. Motion carried.

IX. FY 2024 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

- A. Amanda proposed the cost-of-living adjustment for WMSRDC staff for FY24. A motion was made by Commissioner Mellema and supported by Commissioner Winczewski to approve a 2% COLA. Motion carried following a roll call.
- B. Erin and Amanda presented the FY24 Work Program and Budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Morse and supported by Commissioner Dick to approve the FY24 Work Program and Budget. Motion carried following a roll call.

X. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Hovey-Wright and supported by Commissioner Mellema to approve the August 2023 financials. Motion carried following a roll call.

XI. NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

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

XIII. ROUND TABLE

- Commissioner Cyr – Muskegon County has created a newsletter called the County Communicator. One note of interest is the 50-year anniversary celebration of the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center on Saturday, September 30, from 10 AM-2PM. All are welcome.
- Commissioner Dick – Muskegon Community College (MCC) enrollment is higher than last year. The State of Michigan, Governor, and Legislature approved to lower the age rate of the Michigan Reconnect Program from 25 to 21. This will hopefully bring additional enrollment in the winter semester. This summer MCC had the Academic Catch Up Program to allow students who had some learning loss during the pandemic to come take some English and Math courses to catch up. MCC had 52 students complete this program, and 40 of those enrolled in the fall semester.
- Commissioner Hodges – The City of North Muskegon and Muskegon Township are hosting their Fire Prevention Awareness Night on Thursday at the North Muskegon fire station. Matt Ambrose, the new fire chief, will be there to meet you!
- Commissioner Hovey-Wright talked about the setup of the county parks board. There will be someone from each of the county commission districts represented on the parks commission. Two childcare for-profit entities will be renting space at the Marquette Campus. Things are still not going well with Southern Express at the airport making our future a bit uncertain.
- Commissioner Mellema – The Harvest Festival is going on this week in Fremont. The Hay Art will be on display over the next couple of weeks. Downtown has a block-long mural.
- Commissioner Squires – Mason County Commissioners will be working on the budget and the hiring of a new administrator. One issue they are concerned about is safety. There is now a school resource officer placed in all their schools. After three years, there is now courthouse security. Affordable housing is still an issue of concern.
- Commissioner Welford – On September 14, Robert Johnson from WMSRDC, attended a meeting with township supervisor, police chief, deputies, and representatives from MDOT to discuss the traffic signal at US-10 and M-37. Work continues toward this initiative.
- Commissioner Wells – Approximately 36 students attended the Academic Catch Up Program this summer at West Shore Community College (WSCC).

A recent report done by the Georgetown University Center on education and workforce identified West Shore as one of the top colleges where low income students get the highest return on investment (ROI). West Shore serves the highest percentage of PELL grant eligible students among community colleges in Michigan, and the college achieved the highest graduation rate among PELL grant recipients in the state.

- Commissioner Winczewski – The City of Ludington has been paving two alleys over the last six months. Alleys haven't been paved in the last nine years.

The city is working on adopting a Public Participation Plan for Redevelopment Ready Communities. The city is trying to get a Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification,

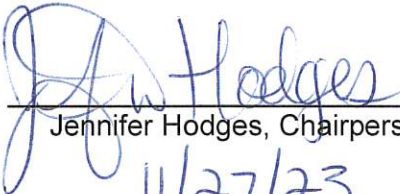
and this is one of the steps they must take to accomplish this.

Ludington is working on amending their short-term rental license agreement. When the license began three years ago there was a limit of 30 rentals. About a year ago it increased to 50. The city felt there were some other guidelines that needed to be added to those renting homes.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT


Motion was made by Commissioner Mellema and supported by Commissioner Hazekamp to adjourn at 11:47 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: November 27, 2023 – Newaygo County



Jennifer Hodges, Chairperson
11/27/23

Date



Erin Kuhn, Executive Director
11-27-23

Date