



May 20, 2024 - 10:00 AM
Lake Osceola State Bank
Lake County

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

II. **ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

Commissioners Present: CAN BE CHANGED LATER – USE ATTENDANCE SHEET

Lake County: Clyde Welford
Mason County: Les Johnson, Lewis Squires, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County: Kim Cyr, Rachel Gorman, Michelle Hazekamp, Jennifer Hodges,
Marcia Hovey-Wright, Bonnie McGlothin, Roger Morgenstern
Newaygo County: Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema, James Rynberg
Oceana County: Tim Beggs, Phil Morse
Muskegon CC: Beth Dick
West Shore CC: Mark Kinney
WMSRDC Appointees: James Kelly, Andrea Large, Jonathan Wilson

Staff/Guests Present: Erin Kuhn, Amanda Snyder, Syndi Copeland
Ronda Wuycheck, Michigan Coastal Management Program
(MCMP), Emily Kirkpatrick, MCMP
Jacob Piper, Muskegon Township Intern

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Wilson to approve the agenda for May 20, 2024. Motion carried.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright to approve the March 25, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Executive Officer's meeting minutes for April 22, 2024, are for information only.

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

VI. **GUEST PRESENTATION** – Ronda Wuycheck and Emily Kirkpatrick
EGLE Coastal Management Program, Water Resources Division

VII. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – There was no report.

VIII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Transportation – Metropolitan Transportation Plan FY2050 is completed and approved through Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). It has been forwarded onto the Federal

Highway Administration (FHWA) for final approval. We expect to have approval before the beginning of FY25. The Unified Work Program is currently going to the Policy Committee for approval and needs to be turned into MDOT by the end of June.

Economic Development – WMSRDC is working with several communities on potential Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants. EDA has not had a lot of construction projects in the State of Michigan, so they are looking for potential construction projects to fund with this fiscal year's funding. Please reach out to Erin or Stephen for information if you know of any public infrastructure projects in your community which are related to economic development.

Environmental – The Micro Forest (Marquette at US 31) planting in Muskegon County occurred a couple weeks ago. There were well over 100 volunteers, and close to 3,000 plants planted on the small lot. Amanda helped coordinate volunteers with DTE, United Way, and Rotary. The Community Foundation for Muskegon County helped with funding. Dave Bailey from the City of Muskegon helped pick out the plants.

Local Government Services – Erin thanked the commissioners for the support they gave regarding the Materials Management Plan (MMP). She reported that three of the five counties have signed a Resolution naming WMSRDC as their designated planning agency. WMSRDC is working on an intergovernmental agreement with those three counties. The notice of intent is required to be submitted by all counties by July 6. Mason County will bring the resolution to their board this month. WMSRDC anticipates participation from all five counties.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are completed and approved by FEMA. Stephen is handing them off to the local Emergency Managers to manage adoption by each of the local municipalities. He has offered assistance to them, if needed.

IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. April 2024 Financials

A motion was made by Commissioner Welford and supported by Commissioner Dick to approve the financial statements for May 2024. After a roll call vote, motion carried.

Amanda gave a brief update of WMSRDC financial statements. Everything is routine, and cash is in a good position. Our money market has switched from PNC to Fidelity, which has a better interest rate. The first draft of the FY25 budget is complete.

X. NEW BUSINESS – A motion was made by Commissioner Hodges and supported by Commissioner Rynberg to go into closed session of the Board of Directors to consider material exempt from discussion and disclosure by State or Federal statute, being an attorney client communication. After a roll call vote, motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Hovey-Wright to take no action at this time .

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – WMSRDC PROGRAMS – There were no comments.

XII. ROUND TABLE

- Tim Beggs – Tourism is coming to the lakeshore, and the dunes and Pentwater will see many people. The Village of Pentwater is looking for a new city manager. Marshville Dam construction is well under way.
- Kim Cyr – An educational institute put together a master plan for the Dune Harbor Park.

- Kim was very impressed with all of the ideas.
- Beth Dick – Muskegon Community College had 299 graduates this year. Enrollment is up from last year. MCC is in the middle of a facility master plan update. The 100-year anniversary will occur in 2026. Starting 2025 there will be a year-long celebration.
 - Rachel Gorman – The City of Muskegon has been participating in some strategic planning with the Smith Group regarding Muskegon Lake Waterfront Development. The Smith Group will be revealing the results of this at the County Economic Summit on Friday, June 7, at 7:30 PM at the Delta. It would be great for elected officials to participate.
 - Michelle Hazekamp – Michelle mentioned the new Dollar General. Muskegon County had strategic planning training. One focus was on the youth (bringing in high tech jobs, as well as training for these jobs) and affordable housing. The county is in the beginning discussions of moving towards regenerative agriculture. Thursday they are bringing in experts from MSU to see if this is a possibility.
 - Jennifer Hodges – Muskegon Township has the annual arts and crafts fair on June 15 at Softball World. The brand new Aldi opened! It will service low income and senior housing. The board will be talking about tiny homes at tonight's meeting. The regional forest main contract has been approved.
 - Marcia Hovey Wright – Muskegon County recently passed a resolution for environmental sustainability. Marcia stated that Denver Air has been hired to provide service for the Muskegon Airport. They are just waiting on approval from the FAA. An RFP has been put out for an airport restaurant.
 - James Kelly – James highlighted a new summer market called Pure Marquette which will open on Wednesdays for about five weeks in Baldwin. There will be kids' activities, a farmers' market and more available. The MSU Extension extended an offer for an Agriculture Water Use Efficiency Educator to work with specialty crop farmers on their water use irrigation methods. They will hopefully be based on West Shore Community College.
 - Mark Kinney – West Shore graduated 190 students and is now gearing up for the summer program. We recognize there is a lack of available childcare option, especially during the summer. In response to this, last year the college developed day camps for students 4-9 year olds. They are repeating this offer this summer and have 360 registrations. Another program was developed for 9-15 year olds, with 256 enrolled. They also provide a College for Kids' week at the beginning of August. There are 316 enrolled already.
 - Andrea Large – The Community Foundation has been involved in a Feasibility Study for the development of a multi-generational community center for Mason County. A community wide survey will begin this week to see interest.
 - Bonnie McGlothin – The City of Muskegon Heights elected to vote in a councilperson to bring them up to six people. There was a public hearing concerning the Broadway project, which will start this fall. Bonnie mentioned the water crisis, where the whole city was without water for three days. The cities of Muskegon and Norton Shores, DTE, and Consumers all helped fix the problem.
 - Paul Mellema – Hazardous Waste Day was Saturday with record amount of people participating. Newaygo County purchased a marina on Hardy Dam and reconstructed the boat slip. The Sheriff storage pole barn is currently being built.
 - Roger Morgenstern – The City of Norton Shores opened a new overlook in Ross Park.
 - Phil Morse – Asparagus Festival is coming up in just a few weeks. There is an 82-home development proceeding; anywhere from 800 to 1,250 square feet.
 - James Rynberg – Fremont is gearing up for the Baby Food Festival the third week of July. A couple of larger housing projects are moving forward. The industrial park has some interest.
 - Lewis Squires – There is concern about affordable housing, but the county is moving in a positive direction. Zoning and solar projects need all organizations working together. Tiny homes have been proposed for Mason County. School Resource Officer improvements


have been made. The Council on Aging has seen improved communication. Work on trail development continues.

- Clyde Welford – Clyde stated that an ORV park is opening on May 25 on M-37 in Lake County. Clyde’s project in Baldwin has been safe routes to school. He met with the superintendent last Tuesday, as well as folks from Lansing. They have \$960,000 for Baldwin – sidewalks, etc. They are developing plans in the city.
- Jonathan Wilson – DTE is working on solar development in Mason and Lake counties. There is a groundbreaking ceremony in Montcalm this Wednesday.
- Kathy Winczewski – The City of Ludington car ferry made its maiden voyage on Friday after some dock repairs. The city manager, Mitch Foster, will be resigning tonight. An interim will be appointed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Cyr and supported by Commissioner Wilson to adjourn at 11:48 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: July 22, 2024 – Oceana County



Jennifer Hodges, Chairperson
7/22/24

Date



Erin Kuhn, Executive Director
7-22-2024

Date