



July 22, 2024 - 10:00 AM  
Double JJ Resort  
Oceana County

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 10:04 AM by Chairperson Jennifer Hodges**

**II. ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

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

**Staff Absent:**

Muskegon CC:	Beth Dick
Mason County:	Lewis Squires
Muskegon County:	Rachel Gorman, Bonnie McGlothlin
Newaygo County:	James Rynberg
WMSRDC Appointees:	Jonthan Wilson

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Welford and supported by Commissioner Kolk to approve the agenda for July 22, 2024. Motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Morgenstern and supported by Commissioner Beggs to approve the May 20, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Executive Officer's meeting minutes for June 24, 2024, are for information only.

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

**VI. GUEST PRESENTATION –** John Morris, West Michigan Trails – Wayfinding Presentation

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

## VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Transportation** – Staff is busy with final preparation for next week's Michigan Transportation Planners Association Conference to be held in Muskegon. About 165 people will attend from across the state for a 4-day conference.

**Economic Development** – Annika Gacnik, the ERA fellow, is doing a fantastic job. To help support the work Annika is doing, WMSRDC has applied to EDA for an economic impact study focused on the agriculture and food process industry within our five-county region. If funded, the project will begin later this fall. WMSRDC is proposing to contract with Michigan State University's RS&GIS Department as well as the Product Center as part of the project.

**Environmental** – The Stony Creek Marshville Dam project is nearing completion. It looks beautiful, and WMSRDC is very proud of it. In addition, Conservation Resource Alliance will be conducting habitat restoration on a 2,000 foot stretch up the river. This project was funded as part of our NOAA Regional Partnership. NOAA will be announcing another round of Regional Partnerships sometime this fall. WMSRDC is planning to apply, so if you know of any projects, please reach out to Fallon or Erin.

**Local Government Services** – All five counties identified WMSRDC as their designated planning agency (DPA) for the Material Management Planning (MMP). Erin submitted on their behalf the Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State of Michigan. Two of the five NOI have been approved. Once all five are received Erin will work with the counties to appoint the MMP Committee.

In August, the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC), along with the Water Asset Management Council and Transportation Asset Management Council are putting together the first Michigan Integrated Infrastructure Conference. This will be held in Grand Rapids. Whether you have gone through the Champions program or not, all are encouraged to attend this conference.

## IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### A. June 2024 Financials

A motion was made by Commissioner Morse and supported by Commissioner Welford to approve the financial statements for May 2024. Motion carried.

Amanda gave an overview of the WMSRDC financial statements. We are nine months into the fiscal year. Cash remains in a strong position. Amanda has also been preparing budget narratives for several environmental grant applications.

X. **NEW BUSINESS** – There was no new business.

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

## XII. ROUND TABLE


- Phil Morse – Welcome to Oceana County and Double JJ. Many exciting things are happening in the Shelby area. The Marshville Dam is gorgeous. A park has been built in Shelby Township. The township was just awarded a large grant for an indoor sports complex. The Village of Shelby, Getty Park project, has a new park as well. There is so much new energy. Also, cherry season is in full swing.
- Michelle Hazekamp – This week is the Muskegon County Fair which includes a rodeo and a derby. The auction is Thursday night.
- Clyde Welford – In May an ORV park was awarded \$300,000 to update. It is very beautiful. Clyde informed that two stop lights will be placed around 2027.


- Andrea Large – Mason County performed a housing needs assessment last year. From that, they formed the Mason County Housing Alliance. The Alliance is working with Ryan Kilpatrick who has helped them create a housing market tool kit. They are working to share this with municipalities to help focus on those areas along the road corridor or where infrastructure is already in place. Mason County partnered with Prose Consulting and several area agencies to do a multi-generational community center survey and a feasibility study to see if there is a real interest for a community center. Pere Marquette River community access site just opened thanks to many grants and the community foundation.
- Roger Morgenstern – Norton Shores hopes to start construction late summer or early fall on the Lake Harbor Trail. The annual Arts and Drafts Festival will be August 17 at Ross Park. Pickleball has come to Norton Shores, and the courts are being used non-stop.
- Kim Cyr – Muskegon County had a groundbreaking for the new Consumers Energy Solar Development out at the Resource Center. Wings over Muskegon Airshow is August 9-11.
- James Kelly – Thanks to Michelle for plugging the Muskegon County Fair and supporting our agriculture youth. There are many other fairs scheduled for the rest of the summer. MSU Extension has hired an Agriculture/Water Use Efficiency educator. Regionally he will be focusing on irrigation needs for specialty crop farmers and animal production.
- Les Johnson – Mason County and Michigan Community Capitol are jointly exploring the project viability of redeveloping 40 acres which is currently owned by Mason County. No formal studies have started. They will be looking at creating single family for sale homes; homes allowing aging population to continue living independently; to create a general density housing for sale and rent for middle income households; recreational trails throughout the development; shared green space and a possible community garden; and energy star certified homes. Mason County has a land bank which was awarded \$500,000.00 for a blight grant for two projects in the Scottville area.
- Bryan Kolk – A campus wide active assailant training was held in Newaygo County for court system employees. There is a new birding trail all over the county with 24 available sites. Emergency Services Director, Abby Watkins, received the 2023 Emergency Services officer of the year. Placer AI, an Artificial Intelligence group, tracks how many people come and go from your location. This shows how much activity is occurring at various locations. Dragon Trail grand opening is on September 27. The Commission on Aging is working at offering more rides.
- Tim Beggs – Oceana County, on the lakeshore, had one of the busiest July 4<sup>th</sup> weekends ever. Great for tourism.
- Mark Kinney – West Shore Community College has had quite a few hires and changes to positions. Mitch Foster was hired as the Vice President of Administrative Services. WSCC will hire 2-3 full-time academic advisors. They have hired a full-time Director of Student Success and one other person to create more robust student experiences on campus.
- Kathy Winczewski – City of Ludington is looking for a new city manager. Applications are due August 16, and they hope to have someone in place by Thanksgiving. The city is in the middle of a five-year strategic planning activity. The city started an invasive species survey performed in the city and will now come up with a plan on how to attack them. The fourth of July was phenomenal!
- Jennifer Hodges – Muskegon Township had their Meet the Machines event on July 3. Over 1,000 attended. The township is still working on their tiny home development ordinance. The township is wrapping up some public safety strategic plans with All-Star Assessments. Muskegon County Parks had an all-day event to work on the strategic plan for the Muskegon County Parks Commission.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

NEXT MEETING: September 23, 2024 – Muskegon County

  
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Jennifer Hodges, Chairperson  
  
9/23/24  
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Date

  
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Erin Kuhn, Executive Director  
  
9-23-24  
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Date