



January 27, 2025  
10:00 AM – Muskegon County  
WMSRDC Offices

- I. **CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 AM** by Chairperson Jennifer Hodges  
Before roll call, Commissioner Hodges welcomed our newest board members, Commissioner's Joel McCormick and Chris McGuigan.

II. **ROLL CALL QUORUM: Yes**

**Commissioner's Present:**

Lake County:	Clyde Welford
Mason County:	Les Johnson, Kathy Winczewski
Muskegon County:	Kim Cyr, Rachel Gorman, Michelle Hazekamp Jennifer Hodges, Chris McGuigan, Bonnie McGlothlin, Roger Morgenstern
Newaygo County:	Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema, James Rynberg
Oceana County:	Tim Beggs, Joel McCormick
WMSRDC Appointees:	James Kelly, Andrea Large
West Shore CC:	Mark Kinney

**Commissioner's Absent:**

Mason County:	Lewis Squires
Muskegon CC:	Beth Dick
WMSRDC Appointee:	Jonathan Wilson

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

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

After a change to the agenda, adding the reappointment of WMSRDC appointees, a motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Beggs to approve the agenda for January 27, 2025. Motion carried.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Welford and supported by Commissioner Morgenstern to approve the November 25, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The December elected officers meeting was cancelled.

- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS** – Erin introduced Lauryn Blake and Jack Grice, as new WMSRDC employees.

VI. **REAPPOINTMENT OF WMSRDC APPOINTEES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Rynberg and supported by Commissioner Winczewski to reappoint James Kelly, Andrea Large and Jonathan Wilson as WMSRDC appointees for two more years. Motion carried.

## **VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A nomination was made by Commissioner Kinney and supported by Commissioner Johnson to elect Kathy Winczewski as Chairperson. A nomination was made by Commissioner Kinney and supported by Commissioner Beggs to elect Commissioner Rynberg as Vice-Chairperson. A nomination was made by Commissioner Kinney and supported by Commissioner Hodges to elect Commissioner Hazekamp as Secretary. There were no other nominations. Motion carried.

## **VIII. AUDIT PRESENTATION**

Commissioner Winczewski welcomed the auditors from Brickley DeLong, Eric VanDop and Jenny Wheeler. The draft audit was sent Tuesday afternoon by email for the presentation.

The Independent Auditors Report states the opinion of the auditor. This was an outstanding and very clean audit.

Single Audit of Federal Programs is due to the Commission receiving \$750,000 or more in federal funding. Brickley DeLong distributed the SAS-114 letter which gives required information to the board stating there were no finds or concerns in the Single Audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welford and supported by Commissioner Hazekamp to approve the FY2024 Audit. The roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

## **IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Commissioner Winczewski stated there was nothing new to report at this time.

## **X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Transportation** – WMSRDC has been working with the Oceana County Road Commission and the City of Muskegon Heights to apply for a 2025 RAISE grant. We helped these communities receive Michigan Infrastructure Office technical assistance to retain consultants to help prepare the applications for these grants.

**Economic Development** – The Economic Development Administration was officially reauthorized the end of December 2024. Erin thanked all who sent letters of support. The reauthorization includes new criteria for matching funds, increased funding for districts, and expanded focus of economic development. EDA is in the process of developing guidance for the reauthorization.

WMSRDC has begun the West Michigan Agriculture Cluster Impact Analysis. After receiving six proposals, WMSRDC contracted with Highland Economics from the Pacific Northwest. This group specializes in crops and agriculture. MSU has also been hired to work on asset mapping with public and internal facing mapping and data analysis. This project will be finished in early fall, and will help our ERC Fellow, Annika, with her work.

**Environmental Program** – WMSRDC was recently awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in the amount of \$200,200 to help our communities along the coastal zone of our region. The first phase is providing technical assistance to identify environmental projects, moving them from preliminary engineering to more advanced engineering, and then on to constructions.

**Local Government Services** – The Materials Management Plan Committee (MMPC) has been formed and will meet again on February 3, 2025. Detailed information and guidance have not yet been provided from the State. Erin did find out that each county gets an allocation of

\$70,000 plus 50¢ per capita. The yearly \$70,000 does not stop after the plan is finished, so this will help the counties implement their plans.

Erin reminded the Commissioners of the Conflict of Interest form which needs to be signed and turned into Syndi Copeland.

**XI. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Amanda gave an overview of financials and stated that cash is in a good position at the end of the year. A motion was made by Commissioner Cyr and supported by Commissioner McGlothlin to approve the November-December 2024 financials. Motion carried.

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

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

**XIV. ROUND TABLE**

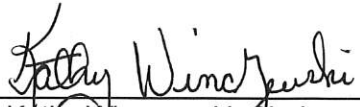
- Jennifer Hodges – Thanked the board for letting her serve as chair. Jennifer has accepted a new position as the Muskegon County Housing Coordinator. She will continue to serve as township supervisor and hopes to continue serving on the WMSRDC Board.
- Kathy Winczewski – City of Ludington completed a new zoning plan called the Unified Development Code which will streamline zoning and planning. Coffee with the Councilors meets every first Thursday for people who want to speak privately about city concerns. Discussion ensued regarding banning smoking at city playgrounds, parks and the beach. North Country CISMA completed a survey of the most prominent invasive species in 89 miles of the city. This year 24 knotweeds within the city will be destroyed.
- Bryan Kolk stated that the ARPA monies, combined with Fremont Area Community Foundation dollars, have produced 200 housing units in Nawaygo County. The Hardy Dam project is projected to start around August 2025. No one will be able to cross the dam for about three years. Planning of emergency services on both sides of the dam continues. Nawaygo County has taken over the construction process on a marina on the back side of Hardy Dam.
- Tim Beggs – In Oceana County, Crystal Valley Dam is a small county park which is in ill repair. EGLE has been sending polite messages saying it needs repair, but they have not found funding for this project. Marshville Dam is well under way.
- Clyde Welford is interested in attending the MMPC meetings. Clyde attended a meeting a month ago in Webber County regarding electric vehicles. He also asked for any connections regarding Safe Routes to School.
- Kim Cyr – Muskegon County recently had a request for a \$9.5 million bond issue due to renovations at Baker College. This motion failed due to questions regarding necessity and quality of renovations.
- Roger Morgenstern – The city council of Norton Shores will be looking at the balance of their ARPA funds and deciding where to put this money. The city has hired a new fire chief, Tony Gutierrez. Muskegon County Airport has improved immensely! Fly Muskegon!
- Rachel Gorman – The City of Muskegon is moving forward on their timeline as far as public engagement and discussions about the waterfront development, specifically any potential land swap between Fisherman's Landing and the Mart Dock. The first public engagement will be today in Jackson Hill at the Smith-Ryerson Community Building at 6:00 PM. Public comments will be accepted until March. Rachel will send a link for more information.
- Paul Mellema - Nawaygo County is transitioning from MERS to Morgan Stanley. There is interest in solar panels on many acres of unused farmland.


- Les Johnson - Mason County is trying to develop a universal, paved, non-motorized hiking trail, ten feet wide, from the county campground/picnic area. The county has received a 2024 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant of \$400,000 which they have to match with \$700,000 which will be provided by the park's recreation fund. The county is discussing a feasibility study for a housing project close to Mason County airport.
- Michelle Hazekamp – After congratulating Jennifer Hodges on her new position, Michelle shared that the Muskegon County Road Commission held a meeting with the Muskegon County commissioners to explain the details of snow removal. Michelle sits on Spring Lake, lake board. This past summer there was a huge problem with algae. They are looking into some natural alternative care. She wondered if this would be a good fit as a project for WMSRDC.
- Andrea Large – The Community Foundation of Mason County opened their spring grant round in early January. They have over \$117,000 to grant out this round for projects that fall within education, increasing work force support, housing, transportation, childcare, and increasing recreation and quality of life opportunities. The Foundation held a grant seekers workshop to help nonprofits learn tips and tricks for strong application and much interest has been shown in applying for these grants. They have a nonprofit meet and greet on Thursday, where strategies, initiatives, and programs will be shared.
- Joel McCormick – Several projects are coming up in Shelby Township, Oceana County. Lewis Farms has been working on a tunnel to go under M-20 to access both sides of the road. Shelby Township Park has a new outdoor sports facility, an enclosed sports facility will likely break ground in March 2025, an outdoor pool is planned for 2026, and a shooting range is being planned.
- Mark Kinney - West Shore Community College is renovating the building in Hart to turn it into a community center. They are waiting for final approval for a grant to provide additional funding for this. If approved, \$400,000 would be separated into materials and equipment, continuation of English as a Second Language (ESL), the food pantry at Lakeshore Food Club, and construction for classrooms. WSCC partnered with Little River Casino in Manistee to provide a conference for EMS professionals on Thursday–Saturday. Sponsorship provided enough for no registration fees, and attendees will receive up to 13 CEUs.
- Bonnie McGlothin – Bonnie is still working on hiring a permanent city manager for the City of Muskegon Heights. All projects are at a standstill due to weather.
- James Kelly, MSU – MAISD, with the support of Muskegon County, received a Plants grant designed to develop and improve the amount of food taken from farm to schools for food programs. Solar energy is a hot topic across all counties. Please engage with MSU to use their resources for sustainability to help make educated decisions. Strategic planning and facilitation are on the list of what they provide. MSU Extension has recently launched a shortened version called Setting Group Goals for Growth (SG3). If you are working with a group (6-12 people), this is a three hour program designed to help them establish goals, in a short but action based program, on what they need to do to get things moving.
- James Rynberg – The Michigan Department of Transportation is going to repair Main Street in the City of Fremont. A housing development in one of their neighborhoods has been approved by the city council and now goes on the housing commission. The infrastructure for the splash park has been designed.
- Chris McGuigan, Muskegon County – Chris stated that it is good to be back. The City of Muskegon was very active in receiving economic development projects, so she is very excited about EDA's reauthorization. She is looking forward to doing four years of great things.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Beggs and supported by Commissioner Cyr to adjourn at 11:05 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: March 24, 2025 – Mason County

  
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Kathy Winzcewski, Chairperson  
3-24-2025  
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Date

  
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Erin Kuhn, Executive Director  
3-24-2025  
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Date