



Minutes

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Held in Person at Cass County Road Commission

MEMBERS PRESENT (in person):

Marchetti, Roseann, Chair, Cass County Commissioner
Doroh, Kurt, Vice Chair, Van Buren County Commissioner
Preston, Linda, Secretary, Cass County Representative (arrived at 9:35 am)
Gundersen, Kristen, Alternate Secretary, Berrien County Representative
Remus, Richard, Alternate Treasurer, Berrien County Representative
Catherman, Rick, Van Buren County Representative
Curran, Jim, Berrien County Commissioner
DeLong, Don, Cass County Representative
Dodd, James, Cass County Representative
Freehling, Teri Sue, Berrien County Commissioner
Hanson, Don, Van Buren County Commissioner
Hanson, Sandra, Van Buren County Representative
Pantaleo, Paul, Berrien County Representative
Petersen, Jan, Van Buren County Representative
Stauffer, Dick, Berrien County Representative
Torzynski, Robert, Pokagon Band Representative
Tyler, Doug, Cass County Representative
Wood, Gary, Berrien County Representative
Wuerfel, Julie, Berrien County Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Akinwale, Yemi, Treasurer, Berrien County Representative
Fette, Dan, Berrien County Representative
Newton, Matthew, Van Buren County Representative
Patterson-Gladney, Gail, Van Buren County Commissioner
Stover, Jim, Berrien County Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roseann Marchetti called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Maria Vettraino took roll call, and a quorum was present.

2. ACCEPTANCE AND/OR REVISION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Marchetti presented the Consent Agenda. Teri Sue Freehling moved to **“ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.”** Kurt Doroh seconded, which carried unanimously.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Egelhaaf went over the report and invited the Board members to ask for any further detail.

Teri Sue Freehling asked who requested the white paper narrative regarding the Skilled Labor Supply/Demand Gap Study and Solutions Project, in which Egelhaaf stated it was the Strategic Leadership Council. Roseann Marchetti brought up Kinexus interest and asked if they have been involved. Director Egelhaaf responded that they absolutely have been engaged.

Egelhaaf went into detail about the Food Hub Linkage Grant Development that is due at the end of October 2022. He talked about the collaboration involved, including the Local Food Council, Kalamazoo Valley Hub, Benton Harbor Fruit Market, and Eastern Market. Director Egelhaaf also gave more detail on the Quad State Director's meeting he attended. He then went on to the subject of rallying support for Amtrak's Midwest Strategic Vision and how they are aiming for an "Expression of Interest" from State Legislative Delegation and MDOT support.

Roseann Marchetti inquired about the nuclear waste storage. Egelhaaf attended a meeting regarding a safe place to store spent nuclear waste. He shared the need for middle spaces to store nuclear waste before its permanent location and a broader effort to spread the news of funding for these middle spaces. Don Hanson asked where the Federal move to restart Palisades stands. Director Egelhaaf responded that he does not know how long it's going to take the Department of Energy to ponder the application and that he suspects it could take a while. Kurt Doroh shared that he has attended meetings with Holtec in which they speak of coming up with their own smaller reactor design and will use spent fuel rods for power. Doug Tyler asked if the State application for Federal money is complete and Egelhaaf responded yes, and that the actual applicant is Holtec.

Gary Wood inquired about the Amtrak letters of support and if the Board should take action. Egelhaaf asked the Board to keep their eyes open for a template of what a letter would look like and for opportunity to share and have local jurisdiction support.

Don DeLong asked why we need an intermediate storage for spent nuclear waste. Director Egelhaaf said it must be the way spent fuel degrades and to make it safer. Doug Tyler wondered if the material can be sold. Egelhaaf responded with talk of the free market and if there seems to be enough value to compensate the cost of building a plant.

Linda Preston moved to **"ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT."** James Dodd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT - EX. DIRECTOR EVALUATION

Vice Chair, Kurt Doroh, thanked Roseann Marchetti and Teri Sue Freehling for providing past evaluation forms to help him come up with a form to use this year. Some Board members will fill out the evaluation and Maria Vettraino will distribute to staff members to fill out as well. Before the next meeting in December at 9 a.m., the committee and officers will discuss the evaluation forms and give results during the meeting that day.

5. SWMPC 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Director Egelhaaf described the 2021 Annual Report. Rich Remus wondered who the audience is for this report and how we can get more exposure. Egelhaaf stated that our obligation ends with creating the report, but it is shared on the SWMPC website, and he can look into sending to all the clerks. Doug Tyler commented that he likes the format and content of the report. He also suggested using the report as a marketing opportunity, an example being a press release. Egelhaaf liked the idea of a press release. Linda Preston also suggested the Board to help get the word out and share the report. Overall, the 2021 Annual Report was received well.

Linda Preston moved to **“APPROVE SWMPC 2021 ANNUAL REPORT.”** Paul Pantaleo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. SWMPC ANNUAL AWARD

Director Egelhaaf first explained why we are not giving out the Welch Lackey Award this year and then explained the Graham Woodhouse Award, its history, criteria, and our internal process. Doug Tyler asked if a project that has been submitted in the past can be nominated again. The answer was yes. The nomination form is due Monday, November 14th.

7. PLANNER PRESENTATION

Senior Planner, Kim Gallagher gave a presentation on SWMPC’s new website. She first spoke on the background/timeline of our current website. In 2019, SWMPC was awarded a grant from MDOT to create an updated website. Gallagher stated the purpose of the new website is to allow viewers with limited experience to easily find and access information, support easy navigation to key information, and is a ADA compliant responsive design that is viewable on multiple devices and platforms. Gallagher shared multiple screenshots of the website, showcasing the new design and layout. The document library was highlighted, including the backend of the database and how you will be able to search by category and location. Gallagher said that a content management solution will be used to keep the website updated and so it has the same tone/voice.

Kurt Doroh inquired about having a Board members list and contact information on the website. Maria Vettraino said she will send the Board an updated contact list. Kristen Gundersen asked if it is possible to create a login for members to see more private contact information on the website, in which Gallagher responded yes that is possible. Doug Tyler asked how we sourced the imagery for the website and suggested to incorporate home grown content as much as possible. Gallagher talked about the trouble with having quality images but will try to replace stock photos once better photos are acquired. Rich Remus asked how much traffic the website gets. Egelhaaf shared that we do have analytics regarding webpage traffic. Kristen Gundersen wondered if there will be social media links on the website, in which Gallagher responded yes. Jan Petersen spoke highly of the new website design, and the Board overall received the new website design well.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present, and thus no public comment.

9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Kurt Doroh moved to adjourn the meeting. Doug Tyler supported the motion. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. John Egelhaaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "K. John" and the last name "Egelhaaf" clearly distinguishable.

K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: August 16, 2022