

MINUTES

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
Full Commission Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Held Remotely Via Zoom:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Freehling, Teri Sue, Chair, Berrien County Commissioner
Marchetti, Roseann, Vice Chair, Cass County Commissioner
Akinwale, Yemi, Treasurer, Berrien County Representative
Preston, Linda, Secretary, Cass County Representative
Gundersen, Kristen, Alternate Secretary, Berrien County Representative
Remus, Richard, Alternate Treasurer, Berrien County Representative
Curran, Jim, Berrien County Commissioner
DeLong, Don, Cass County Representative
Fette, Dan, Berrien County Representative
Foerster, David, Van Buren County Representative
Hanson, Don, Van Buren County Commissioner
Hanson, Sandra, Van Buren County Representative
Janssen, Judy, Van Buren County Representative
Laylin, Leon, Cass County Representative
Meeks, Donnie, Berrien County Commissioner
Newton, Matthew, Van Buren County Representative
Pantaleo, Paul, Berrien County Representative
Patterson-Gladney, Gail, Van Buren County Commissioner
Payne, Gloria, Berrien County Representative
Schueneman, James, Berrien County Representative
Stauffer, Dick, Berrien County Representative
Stover, Jim, Berrien County Representative
Tyler, Doug, Cass County Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Doroh, Kurt, Van Buren County Commissioner
Morris, Zach, Van Buren County Economic Development Ex-Officio

STAFF PRESENT:

K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director
Patrice Rose, Office Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

Donna Spenner, Lawrence Township
Kevin Haight, Two Rivers Coalition

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Teri Sue Freehling called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Office Manager, Patrice Rose took roll call and a quorum was present.

2. ACCEPTANCE AND/OR REVISION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Freehling presented the Agenda. Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to “**ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**” Paul Pantaleo seconded. There were no changes, a roll call vote was taken, the motion carried.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Chair Freehling presented the Director’s Report. Yemi Akinwale moved to “**ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**” Roseanne Marchetti supported the motion. A roll call vote followed; the motion carried.

Rich Remus requested that Director Egelhaaf give a brief update on the Seven County Non-Motorized Map and the cancelation of the SWMPC Staff Holiday party due to COVID.

4. WELCH LACKEY AWARD

Director Egelhaaf presented a brief overview of the Welch Lackey award, the 2020 recipient is Chair, Teri Sue Freehling. Egelhaaf displayed the award, for all to view.

5. GRAHAM WOODHOUSE AWARD

Also covered in Director Egelhaaf’s presentation was the Graham Woodhouse Award. The recipient is the Paw Paw River Water Trail, and the entities involved in the project. Again, Egelhaaf displayed one of the plaques that all the participants will receive.

6. TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION PLAN

Director Egelhaaf explained the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and that this is an updated version of the prior plan. Roseanne Marchetti made the motion to “**ACCEPT THE TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION PLAN AS PRESENTED.**” Dick Stauffer seconded, a roll call vote was take and the motion passed,

7. PA 224 POSITION STATEMENT

Egelhaaf presented

Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to support the co-signing of a letter drafted by Merit that endorsed additions and alterations to PA 224 the “Broadband Expansion Act.” Roseanne Marchetti supported the motion. Jim Curran suggested as a separate action, that each of the three counties enact resolution that would individually support the additions and alterations suggested in the Merit letter. Egelhaaf was asked to draft a sample resolution and send to Board members. Additionally, Egelhaaf was asked to submit the final version of the Merit letter to the Executive Committee so they could review and consider approval of the final letter. Gail Patterson-Gladney revised her original motion to conform to Curran’s suggestions. Marchetti concurred. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved.

8. 2021 INSURANCE OPTION

Director Egelhaaf provided three options for 2021 Healthcare Insurance Coverage. After some discussion, Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to **“ACCEPT OPTION 1, THE INSURANCE EXEMPTION FROM THE “MICHIGAN PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT” FOR 2021 and APPROVE THE 2% EMPLOYEE INSURANCE CO-PAY.”** Gloria Payne seconded, a roll call vote followed and the motion was approved unanimously.

9. MERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION ADDENDUM

Director presented the Addendum to the MERS Defined Contribution Plan, Linda Preston made the motion to **“APPROVE THE MERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION ADDENDUM,”** Matthew Newton seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

10. 2021 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2021 Proposed Meeting Schedule was presented. Roseann Marchetti moved to **“APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.”** Gloria Payne seconded and the motion carried.

11. RESOLUTION 2020-6 – PALISADES EDA APPLICATION

Director Egelhaaf gave a quick synopsis of the resolution presented stating that the resolution is one of the requirements for the EDA grant. Linda Preston moved to **“APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-6”** as presented, Gail Patterson-Gladney seconded, a roll call vote followed and the resolution passed.

12. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Roseann Marchetti presented the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee, which performed the annual evaluation of Executive Director Egelhaaf. The committee recommends extending the current employment agreement until December 31, 2021.

13. RESOLUTION 2020-7 – EXECUTIVE DIR. CONTRACT

Gloria Payne made the motion to **“APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-7”**, as presented, Jim Schueneman supported, a roll call vote followed and the resolution passed.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

15. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Board members wished one another a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: December 15, 2020