



Minutes

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, December 20, 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
Patterson-Gladney, Gail, Van Buren County Commissioner
Petersen, Jan, Van Buren County Representative
Stauffer, Dick, Berrien County 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
Slack, Ashley, Berrien County Representative
Torzynski, Robert, Pokagon Band Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:

Durm Hiatt, Marge, Berrien County Representative (prospective replacement for Jim Stover)
Graham Woodhouse Award Recipients

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roseann Marchetti called the meeting to order at 9:33 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 WITH THE GRAHAM WOODHOUSE AWARD PRESENTATION BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.”** Paul Pantaleo seconded. Unanimous consent.

3. GRAHAM WOODHOUSE AWARD PRESENTATION

Director Egelhaaf explained the criteria for the Graham Woodhouse Award. The annual intergovernmental effort award was given to the collaborators responsible for the Imagine Cass-Embrace the Vision, Cassopolis Transformation Project. There were 21 identified partners and 25 funders involved. Plaques were made for 8 of the partners. Egelhaaf presented a slide show with photos of the project and summarized what the project involved. Chair Marchetti presented the plaques to the recipients present.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Egelhaaf spoke on the MI DNR SPARK Recreation Grant Program. He also shared that Holtec’s application to keep Palisades open was not approved.

Rich Remus asked for more elaboration on mobility management. Egelhaaf spoke on the initiative to seek funding and how mobility managers can potentially be incorporated into regional planning organizations statewide.

Linda Preston moved to **“ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.”** Jim Dodd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Senior Planner, Jerrid Burdue, gave a presentation on the CEDS 2022. He went through the goals for the next 5 years. Some of the highlights he shared included a condensed, visually pleasing report, a StoryMap online tool, increased public engagement, and identification of performance metrics that will be monitored over time.

Linda Preston moved to **“APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN.”** Gail Patterson Gladney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN FOR SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Jerrid Burdue presented the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. He explained that the funding to execute the Plan was awarded by the US Economic Development Administration as part of the CARES ACT funding with a \$400,000 grant. This Plan looks

at what happened during the pandemic and how we can create a more resilient regional economy. Burdue discussed the vulnerabilities exposed during the pandemic and suggested ways to help move the region toward the overall goal. He showed a few vulnerabilities; some examples included childcare, supply chain, and transportation. An organizational orbits computer application tool was built and funded through this grant. The app was briefly described. Burdue then opened the floor for questions regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan.

Rich Remus asked about the strategy to create childcare jobs. Jerrid Burdue shared that a team of experts will come together to work toward the goal of increased childcare. Roseann Marchetti shared that Cass County received a grant to study childcare and a survey will be sent out. Marchetti believes schools and businesses should be involved with the solution. She praised Burdue on his hard work on these plans.

Rick Catherman inquired about the availability of citizen survey data. Burdue said he would be willing to share the survey data.

Teri Sue Freehling thanked Burdue for his work on these plans and asked when the work began for the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. Burdue responded that it was June of 2020.

Director Egelhaaf explained in depth the difference between the CEDS and Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. Burdue finished with a comment on the infographics in the reports and how the StoryMap allows you to drill down further into different areas of data that are of particular interest.

Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to **“APPROVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN FOR SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN.”** Sandra Hanson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. 2023 INSURANCE OPTION

Annually the board is asked to consider three options for how SWMPC insurance costs will be shared between staff and the organization. The three options were presented by Egelhaaf along with the projected 2023 costs associated with each option as well as the changes in cost from 2022 to 2023 (12.14% increase). The three options considered by the board were: a hard cap, an 80/20 split, or an exemption that would allow for the continuation of the previous 98/2 split.

Kurt Doroh moved to **“APPROVE AN EXEMPTION TO THE 80/20 OR HARD CAP COST SHARE.”** Linda Preston seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Kurt Doroh discussed the Executive Director evaluation that was managed by the committee. The committee recommended a 2% salary increase for 2023 for Egelhaaf. A discussion ensued about this percentage. Many Board members expressed their

disappointment and believe Egelhaaf should receive a larger increase, especially with the increase in cost of living and Egelhaaf's exceptional leadership. Dick Stauffer and Gail Patterson-Gladney felt strongly for a larger increase. There were several positive comments on Egelhaaf's performance. Doroh shared that he would like to meet with Egelhaaf to go over employee salary and benefits, and the possibility to come back to the Board with any changes. The board ultimately agreed on a three-percent increase in salary for 2023.

9. RESOLUTION 2022-2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTRACT

The resolution to extend Director Egelhaaf's employment contract for another year through 2023 was discussed. The board considered the term of the extension. Teri Sue Freehling and Director Egelhaaf explained the contract renewal process. Doroh moved to raise the original recommendation of 2% to a 3% salary increase.

Kurt Doroh moved to "**APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTRACT WITH 3% INCREASE.**" Marge Durm Hiatt seconded the motion, which carried by roll call vote with three members voting no (Gail Patterson-Gladney, Jan Petersen, and Dick Stauffer).

10. 2023 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

Director Egelhaaf presented the 2023 meeting schedule with the continuation of location at the Cass County Road Commission.

Rick Catherman moved to "**APPROVE 2023 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE.**" Linda Preston seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyler Augst, from MSU Extension, shared his involvement with land use issues and that webinar trainings are available.

12. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Kurt Doroh made everyone aware that today's meeting was Don Hanson's last. The Board expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Don Hanson's involvement and commented on how instrumental he was in this organization.

Director Egelhaaf explained why the TwinCATS Long Range Plan is not ready to approve and the possibility of an Administration Committee meeting in January 2023.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Jan Petersen moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Wood supported the motion. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11.25 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. John Egelhaaf', written in a cursive style.

K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: December 20, 2022