



Minutes

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 19th, 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
Gundersen, Kristen, Alternate Secretary, Berrien County Representative
Remus, Richard, Alternate Treasurer, Berrien 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
Meeks, Donnie, Berrien County Commissioner
Pantaleo, Paul, Berrien County Representative
Patterson-Gladney, Gail, Van Buren County Commissioner
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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Akinwale, Yemi, Treasurer, Berrien County Representative
Fette, Dan, Berrien County Representative
Newton, Matthew, Van Buren County Representative
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. R. Marchetti motioned to accept the Consent Agenda with the addition of the Memorandum of Understanding. Teri Sue Freehling moved to **“ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.”** Don DeLong seconded, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Egelhaaf invited the board members to ask for further detail on any portion of the report.

On the topic of the Regional (COVID 19) Recovery Strategy - regarding the potential value of adding more daycare and housing, Chair Marchetti shared that Christine Whitmire received a grant to investigate childcare in Cass County. Director Egelhaaf stated that he and Jill Plescher are working with U of M to try to understand the economic impacts of incentivizing the addition of daycare, so that other people can work.

Paul Pantaleo wondered about the closing of Palisades and possible lawsuits. Director Egelhaaf talked about the closing of Palisades and that Holtec will soon own the plant. Kurt Doroh brought up the U of M study and how he found it interesting that the data showed jobs being lost, such as restaurant and retail positions. Doroh stated that they did not have data post COVID. Director Egelhaaf stated that unfortunately there is not a lot of reliable data. Egelhaaf also shared that the point of the study is to find out what we can do in the economy to mitigate the loss of these important jobs. Dick Stauffer shared that he read in the Herald Palladium how Palisades needs a lot of renovations. Gail Patterson-Gladney asked about the 10 year break of federal funding and if that can be made into a quicker process. Director Egelhaaf talked about the closure fund that Entergy has built over time for the disassembly and safe storage of waste post closure. Egelhaaf stated that Holtec is saying that this fund is not big enough to complete the closure without a break but there will be effort to try and rebuild the economy from the moment the Strategy is completed and the Recovery Specialist is engaged.

Linda Preston moved to **“ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.”**
Gail Patterson-Gladney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. AUDIT REPORT – 2021 Audit Presentation

Patrick Sage of Kruggel Lawton, CPAs, presented and explained the audit report, stating that SWMPC's financial health is as expected and a positive cash flow shows good operations. Sage encouraged the Board to reach out if they ever have any questions or concerns. Chair Roseann Marchetti opened the floor for questions. There were none.

Kurt Doroh moved to **“APPROVE THE AUDIT REPORT AS PRESENTED.”** Gail Patterson-Gladney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. 2022 OVERAL WORK PROGRAM

Director Egelhaaf presented and gave a brief overview of the 2022 Overall Work Program.

Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to **“APPROVE THE 2022 OVERAL WORK PROGRAM.”** Sandra Hanson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. 2022 SWMPC BUDGET REVISION

Director Egelhaaf discussed the reasoning for this budget revision, including issues with QuickBooks and waiting on revenue information for multiple environmental projects. Egelhaaf stated that this revision shows a clearer picture of revenue and projected expenses. He explained that the April revision shows less in revenue due to the completion of the Galien Master Plan and the difference in unallocated funds is due to a higher expense for contractual services – offsite.

Rich Remus moved to “**APPROVE THE 2022 SWMPC BUDGET REVISION.**” Kurt Doroh seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. (NEW ITEM) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Director Egelhaaf read through and explained the Memorandum of Understanding with MACOG. Chair Marchetti will sign this memorandum if the Board agrees. Dick Stauffer asked if the South Bend agency is much bigger than ours, in which Director Egelhaaf replied yes. Rich Remus asked if we saw this last year, again Egelhaaf responded yes. Dick Stauffer asked if we have had to resolve any conflicts. Director Egelhaaf replied that in the past there were moments where we got close but never had to officially step in.

Linda Preston moved to “**APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**” Gail Patterson-Gladney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. PLANNER PRESENTATION “US Census 2020 – A Guided Tour”

Director Egelhaaf introduced SWMPC’s GIS Specialist Jill Plescher. Plescher showed different types of maps she has created and illustrated how much detail can be seen with online mapping. She talked about the open data platform in which she can put the GIS data online for people to download. Plescher then brought up the new 2020 Census and explained what that data meant for her, which includes downloading new TIGER files. Chair Marchetti asked if an average person can go to the TIGER files. Plescher responded that the TIGER files are only for people working with GIS software. Plescher stated that she has been working with the population data and it shows a decrease in population from 2010 to 2020. A discussion on possible reasons for this decrease in population ensued. Plescher shared 2020 Census data release dates and resources. Gary Wood was curious about the housing data and if it is broken up into occupied vs unoccupied households. Chair Marchetti opened up the floor to ask Jill Plescher any questions on her presentation. Linda Preston asked where she can find Plescher’s maps. Plescher showed how to find the maps she has created. Rich Remus asked about croplands maps and how often they are updated. Plescher responded that they are updated each year. Gail Patterson-Gladney asked if she worked with the Department of Public Health for COVID-19 data. Plescher responded no, they looked at data downloaded from the state.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chair Roseann Marchetti opened up the floor for discussion. Director Egelhaaf gave a reminder to fill out their Board profile and per diem forms. Gary Wood introduced himself as a new Board member. Linda Preston shared that she has been appointed by the governor to the State Boundary Commission. Chair Marchetti talked about Todd Gustafson (with Kinexus) and his email regarding his trip to Poland to volunteer. Donnie Meeks stated this would be his last meeting but hopes to be on the Board as a citizen. Teri Sue Freehling asked that Jill Plescher's presentation would be shared with the Board. Freehling then gave an update on what Berrien County has been working towards regarding the Broadband initiative. Kurt Doroh shared that he and Chair Marchetti received the Commissioner Academy Award.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to adjourn the meeting. Teri Sue Freehling supported the motion. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: April 19, 2022