

## **MINUTES**

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
Full Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Held Remotely Via:

<https://zoom.us/j/98777764307?pwd=bm5SbWw2a0UzTkM5ekt0N25obGpDUT09>

Meeting ID: 987 7776 4307

Passcode: 765370

### **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  
Doroh, Kurt, Van Buren County Commissioner  
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  
Morris, Zach, Van Buren County Economic Development Ex-Officio  
Newton, Matthew, Van Buren County Representative  
Pantaleo, Paul, Berrien County Representative  
Patterson-Gladney, Gail, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Payne, Gloria, Berrien County Representative  
Stauffer, Dick, Berrien County Representative  
Tyler, Doug, Cass County Representative

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Schueneman, James, Berrien County Representative  
Stover, Jim, Berrien County Representative  
Torzynski, Robert, Pokagon Band Representative

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Teri Sue Freehling called the meeting to order at 9:36 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 Consent Agenda and requested that the Meeting Agenda be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Kurt Doroh moved to **“ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES,”** Don DeLong seconded. The motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Chair Freehling requested that item **#7 HEALTHY BERRIEN CONSORTIUM RACISM STATEMENT** be removed from the agenda since it is a draft and has not yet been approved by the Healthy Berrien Consortium. Paul Pantaleo moved to **“ACCEPT THE AGENDA WITH THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE”**. Jim Curran seconded, a voice vote was taken, and the revised Agenda was unanimously accepted.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Before focusing on the report, Director Egelhaaf took the opportunity to introduce new board member, Zach Morris, from Market Van Buren, stating that he represents the Economic Development sector, and joins the board as a non-voting member. Egelhaaf then invited members to indicate which items on the report that they wished to discuss. Paul Pantaleo asked about Regional Food Branding. Gail Patterson-Gladney inquired about Director Egelhaaf’s August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with MDOT regarding the Pere Marquette. Egelhaaf reported the meeting was also attended by Senator Kim LaSata and former Senator John Proos, and stated that \$250,000 has been included in the MDOT budget and he is now working to have the funding allocated to SWMPC. Dave Foerster asked for an update on Broadband, Egelhaaf says that he is encouraged by how it is going and is encouraged by the building of a task force in Van Buren County, and continues to meet with Merit on an almost weekly basis. Roseann Marchetti inquired about Scenario Planning; Egelhaaf explained it is a computer-based tool that uses mapping and other data to measure a plan’s potential impact on an area. Gail Patterson-Gladney moved to **“ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.”** Roseann Marchetti supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken the motion carried.

**4. AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR EX. DIRECTOR EVALUATION**

Chair Freehling gave a quick overview of the composition and responsibilities of the Committee. The Committee consists of the Executive committee and a representative from each of the three counties. County volunteers are; Donnie Meeks, Berrien County; Don DeLong, Cass County and Kurt Doroh, Van Buren County.

**5. RESOLUTION 2020-3 - MPO MASTER AGREEMENT**

Director Egelhaaf gave a quick synopsis of the two resolutions presented; stating that the agreements are revisited every 3 years and this is the first time MDOT has required a resolution. Kurt Doroh asked if the funds involved are for planning. Egelhaaf agreed that

the resolutions are for planning funds only and no road funding is involved. Rich Remus asked if the agreements are similar to past agreements. Egelhaaf's response was affirmative. Yemi Akinwale moved to "APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-3", Roseanne Marchetti seconded, a roll call vote followed and the resolution passed.

**6. RESOLUTION 2020-4 - RPO MASTER AGREEMENT**

Gail Patterson-Gladney made the motion to "APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-4", Leon Laylin supported, a roll call vote followed and the resolution passed.

**7. ~~HEALTHY BERRIEN CONSORTIUM RACISM STATEMENT~~**

**8. PLANNER PRESENTATION – ECONOMIC RESILIENCY PLAN**

Director Egelhaaf gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the Economic Resiliency Plan. Discussion followed, Rich Remus inquired what part the State plays, Egelhaaf shared that EDA has asked each region to take their own approach and there is no mandate or central organizing principle. Gail Patterson-Gladney asked about budgeting, Egelhaaf reported that a budget has been built, as that is a requirement for funding, and stated that the budget is available. He also committed to sending the CEDS list to the Board.

**9. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR SWMPC – DISCUSSION**

Chair Teri Sue Freehling addressed the possibility of Strategic Objectives for SWMPC, citing that it is difficult to be pragmatic when evaluating performance without true benchmarks, suggesting that the Vision and Mission Statements of SWMPC would be used as guidelines to develop Strategic Objectives. Discussion followed, Don Hanson offered that the SWMPC Staff has enough on its plate, and it would be an added burden. Jim Curran inquired who developed the Vision and Mission Statements. Egelhaaf offered that they were a product of the team building efforts by the staff in 2018. Roseann Marchetti supported Don Hanson's position and the venture was tabled.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

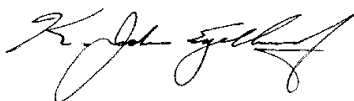
None.

**11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: August 25, 2020