



SWMPC

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Contents

Pg. 2– Environment: Workshops

Pg. 3– Awards

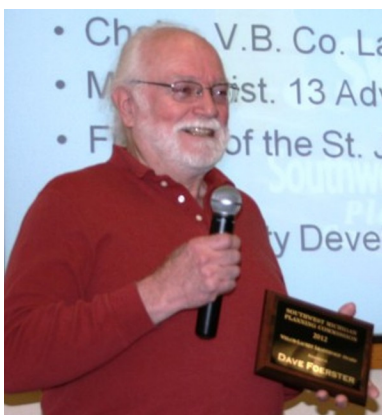
The Quarterly

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Planning that is Credible, Credentialed, and Connected

Foerster and Payne Honored with the Welch-Lackey Leadership Award

At the January 31, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC), held at Southwestern Michigan College, Chair Linda Preston honored Dave Foerster and Gloria Payne with the **Welch-Lackey Leadership Award**.



Dave Foerster

In announcing the dual award, John Egelhaaf, SWMPC Executive Director, commended the recipients; "for your years of committed service to the SWMPC and dedication to inter-governmental cooperation across southwest Michigan."

Egelhaaf noted Foerster's position as SWMPC Van Buren County Citizen Representative since 2008 and work on the SWMPC Financial Management Policies & Procedures Committee in 2008. Also mentioned was his continuing involvement in many organizations that support the goals of SWMPC.

Lake Township Clerk Payne was recognized as the SWMPC Berrien County Townships Representative since 2001. Egelhaaf especially commended her as catalyst in the health care overhaul at the SWMPC that has saved the Commission \$40,000. Later in the meeting, Payne was chosen as Vice Chair for 2012 during the annual election of SWMPC officers.

The Welch-Lackey Leadership Award is presented annually in honor of former Commissioners George A. Welch and William F. Lackey. These men served the Commission in times of great personal difficulties, yet continued throughout to represent the spirit of public service and to further the goals of intergovernmental cooperation. Their contribution to the communities they served embodies the leadership qualities essential to the preservation of our citizen form of government. Board members vote by secret ballot from nominees submitted by the SWMPC staff as members currently exemplifying such qualities.



Gloria Payne

2012 SWMPC Board Officers

Jeff Radtke– Chair
Gloria Payne – Vice Chair

Yemi Akinwale –Treasurer
Rich Remus - Alternate Treasurer

ENVIRONMENT

Low Impact Development Workshop

Builders, planners, local government officials, and the public attended the Low Impact Development Workshop on March 1 in Sawyer, MI. The workshop presented a shift in thinking about water as a resource while planning and designing for new development or re-development.

Engineers and practitioners discussed how to utilize natural systems to treat polluted runoff and protect rivers, streams and lakes. Traditionally, water is collected and transported off the building site as quickly as possible. This has resulted in polluted streams and lakes and sometimes increased flooding. The focus is now to slow the water down, spread it out, and soak it in recharging groundwater supplies. The attendees discovered cutting-edge techniques, received resources, and heard about local examples. These techniques can often save on long-term costs, while also protecting water resources.



Marcy Colclough speaking at the LID Workshop

Scott Dierks from **Cardno JFNew** spoke about the basics and benefits of low impact development (LID) and incorporating it into new developments and redevelopments. Mark Parrish from the **Pokagon Band of Potawatomi** spoke about why and how they used LID in their Tribal Housing development located in Dowagiac, Michigan. Matt Davis, an engineer from **Wightman & Associates**, presented on design considerations when using LID techniques. Marcy Colclough a senior planner from SWMPC spoke about how cities, townships, and villages need to update ordinances because many are barriers to implementing LID. An easy area for improvement is to focus on parking requirements.

The Village of Three Oaks won a \$600 gift certificate from the **Cardno JFNew** Native Plant Nursery to install a rain garden on public property. They were the municipality within the Galien River Watershed with the most staff and elected and appointed officials that attended the workshop.

To view the presentations and learn more about LID visit: www.swmpc.org/lid_workshop.asp



Kris Martin speaking about compost at the workshop

Landscaping and Gardening Workshop

Clean water in streams, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan depends largely on each of us and our landscaping and gardening practices to make a difference. Over 75 people attended a Landscaping and Gardening Workshop in New Troy, MI on March 3rd. The keynote speaker, Jason Fritz is a native plant and garden expert from the **Cardno JFNew** Native Plant Nursery; one of the largest native plant nurseries in the Midwest. Fritz discussed the benefits of native plants and how to plan, design, and maintain a natural landscape of any size.

Nancy Carpenter presented on what the **Berrien County Conservation District** can do for the community and homeowners. They offer a spring tree sale and sell composting bins and rain barrels (any easy thing any homeowner with gutters can utilize) (www.berriencd.org). Kris Martin from SWMPC presented different methods of making compost and how to create a worm bin to produce healthy soil for gardening and landscaping. Marcy Colclough from SWMPC spoke about the new phosphorus ban on fertilizers for residential and commercial lawns and the affect that excessive phosphorus has on water quality in Michigan. Members from the **River Valley Garden Club** talked about their garden projects and how to get involved. Peg Kohring from **The Conservation Fund** and Terry Hanover from **Friends of New Troy** gave a tour of a rain garden planted with native plants that captures rain from the community center's roof top.

Eight people were awarded native plant seed packets which were donated by the **Jimmy F. New Foundation**. To view the presentations and learn tips visit: www.swmpc.org/lawn_care.asp.

Completed Plans

- **Village of Vandalia: Parks and Recreation Plan**
- **Milton Township: Master Plan**
- **Village of Three Oaks: Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan**

GRAHAM WOODHOUSE AWARD

Connecting Communities and People

At the January 31, 2012 meeting SWMPC announced the selection of the Connecting Communities and People: the Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Map Project as the 2012 Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Cooperation Award winner.

Chair Linda Preston and Executive Director John Egelhaaf presented award plaques to representatives of **Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Intermodal Policy Division and Southwest Region, Barry County, Berrien County, Branch County, Calhoun County, Cass County, Kalamazoo County, Van Buren County, Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and SWMPC.**

Allegan County, St. Joseph County and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council were included in the award, but representatives were unable to attend.

According to the nomination submitted by Stepek, the goals of the project were to:

1. Update the existing Southwest Michigan Road and Trail Map created by the SWMPC in 2005;
2. Develop a comprehensive, regional, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for MDOT's Southwest Region. Objectives of the planning document were to:
 - Provide a region-wide vision for a connected non-motorized system of off-road shared use paths and on-road facilities;
 - Encourage dialogue and more coordinated planning among state, county, and local entities;
 - Enhance partnerships and increase communication among state, county, and local agencies regarding the implementation.



Back row L to R: Steve Stepek, KATS; Larry Hummel, VB Co; John Egelhaaf, SWMPC; Kevin Reed, Berrien Co; Rick Moore, Barry Co; Kathy Worst, Branch Co; and Ron Sootsman Calhoun Co; Front row L to R: Kyle Lewis, Kalamazoo Co; Darrell Harden, MDOT SW Region; Amy Druskovitch, Cass Co; Toni Thompson, MTGA; Deb Alfonso, MDOT Intermodal Policy Division



Back row left to right: James Coury, Kathy Worst, Kevin Henning, Deb Alfonso, Amy Druskovich, Jill Plescher, Linda Preston, John Egelhaaf, Kevin Reed, in front with cake & map: Marcy Colclough and Cindy Krupp.

In announcing the award, John Egelhaaf, SWMPC Executive Director said "The Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award recognizes cross-jurisdictional, regional cooperation as highly valued by the SWMPC. Such cooperation breeds the efficient use of limited resources, makes use of combined goal-setting, and speaks to the way most see the world; as nodes of regional resources. The players in this thankless process are frequently not recognized so to those who search for collaborative change...Your work is appreciated and worthy of recognition!"

This award was established in 1987 to honor former Dowagiac Mayor Graham Woodhouse and is presented annually for projects that exemplify cooperation by local units of government. Recipients receive the Award in recognition of outstanding

cooperative effort in problem solving. The criteria used in evaluating project nominations include relative degree of effort by local units, methodology, scope, and project dimension.

The plan and map are located at: www.swmpc.org/smart_plan.asp

May is National Bike to Work Month

The League of American Bicyclists is the national sponsor of Bike Month and this year Bike to Work Week is **May 14-18** and Bike to Work Day is **Friday, May 18**. For more information visit www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/





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*The SWMPC Mission is to promote a sustainable high quality of life through
 facilitation of sound planning and decision making*

Save Paper By Receiving Our Newsletter Electronically: email mooret@swmpc.org

Calendar of Events 2012

April

6th SWMPC Offices Closed Afternoon
 10th Berrien County Coordination
 Transportation Coalition mtg
 (BCCTC)***
 16th 9:30 a.m. TwinCATS monthly
 mtg**
 24th 1:30 p.m. NATS monthly mtg*
 25th Trans. Asset Management
 Council Spring Conference

May

15th 10 a.m. "Waterways, Wetlands,
 and You!" US Army Corps
 Muskegon, MI
 18th National Bike to Work Day
 21st 9:30 a.m. TwinCATS monthly
 mtg**
 22nd 1:30 p.m. NATS monthly
 mtg*
 28th SWMPC Offices Closed

June

18th 9:30 a.m. TwinCATS monthly
 mtg**
 26th 1:30 p.m. NATS monthly mtg *

(Check our website for upcoming
 events!)

*NATS Meeting 1345 E. Main Street, Niles, MI

**TwinCATS Meeting 1123 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, MI

***BCCTC Michigan Works 499 E Main Street Benton Harbor, MI

For more information and other events visit: www.swmpc.org/calendar.asp

2012 SWMPC Board Meeting Schedule

SWMPC Full Commission Meeting

*Location: Van Buren Conference Center
 490 South Paw Paw Street Lawrence, MI
 April 10, 2012 9:30 a.m.
 July 17, 2012 9:30 a.m.*

SWMPC Administrative Committee Meeting

*Location: Vincent Place Conference Room
 Benton Harbor, MI
 June 19, 2012 9:30 a.m.
 September 18, 2012 9:30 a.m.
 December 18, 2012 9:30 a.m.*