

# Region Four RURAL TASK FORCE

## Meeting Agenda

December 5th, 2019 10:30 AM

Van Buren County Road Commission, 325 W. James St. Lawrence, MI

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda
- Action Item 3. Approval of Minutes of the February 15, 2019 Meeting
4. Presentation by Mark Harrison, MDOT Local Agency Programs, on the effects of being capped versus uncapped
5. Obligation Report from 2019
- Action Item 6. Status of 2020 Projects & Programing of Remaining Balances
- Action Item 7. Review of Actions Taken at the Van Buren County RTF Meeting
- Action Item 8. Proposed Changes to the All Season Road Network
9. Public Comment or Privilege of the Floor
10. Adjournment

### **Voting Members of the Region Four County Rural Task Force:**

#### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

Kevin stack – Berrien County Road Commission

Evan Smith – Berrien Bus

Bob Getz – Village of Baroda

#### **CASS COUNTY**

Joe Bellina – Cass County Road Commission

Evan Smith – Cass County Public transit

Ben Anderson – Village of Cassopolis

#### **VAN BUREN COUNTY**

Larry Hummel – Van Buren County Road Commission

Tony Dacoba – Van Buren County Public Transit

Regina Hoover – City of Bangor

#### **Staff:**

Brandon Kovnat, *Southwest Michigan Planning Commission*

Kim Gallagher, *Southwest Michigan Planning Commission*

# Region IV RURAL TASK FORCE

## Minutes

February 15, 2019 1:30 pm

Van Buren County Road Commission offices, 319 W James St, Lawrence, MI 49064

Voting Members	Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Department
	Bob Getz	Village of Baroda
	Joe Belliana	Cass County Road Commission
	Ben Anderson	Village of Cassopolis
	Larry Hummel	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Regina Hoover	City of Bangor
	Tony Dacoba	Van Buren Public Transit
Staff	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
Others Present	Linda Norton	Village of Breedsvile
	Steve Rogusta	Village of Breesdville
	Mathew Newton	Village of Decatur
	Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
	Don Mayle (by phone)	MDOT – RTF Program Manager

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Region Four Rural Task Force (RTF) chair, Larry Hummel, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Larry announced that at the Van Buren County Rural Task force Meeting, Regina Hoover had been chosen to be the new City/Village representative for Van Buren County.

### 2. Overview of Purpose of the Meeting and RTF Program

Hummel explained that the Region Four Rural Task Force (RTF) was a program that allocated federal and state transportation funds to rural areas within Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. He said the purpose of the meeting was to affirm the actions that were approved at each county RTF meeting. The main decision being affirmed are the project selection for 2020 through 2023.

### 3. Public Comment

None.

### 4. Changes to the Agenda

Berndt asked to add revising a 2019 Berrien County Road Department Project.

Larry asked to add a revision to a Van Buren County project that required extra State D funding. Because State D funds cannot be advanced, he explained that they would use a loan from Cass County in 2019 to be repaid in 2020.

Larry said it would be best to add these items before approving the 2020-2023 projects.

**Motion** to approve the revised agenda made by Brian Berndt, seconded by Larry Hummel. **Motion approved**

**5. Approval of Minutes from the January 24, 2018, Meeting**

**Motion** to approve the January 24, 2018 Region Four Rural Task Force meeting minutes made by Joe Bellina, second by Tony Dacoba. **Motion approved.**

**6. Additional Agenda Items**

a) Berndt had proposed to suspend Berrien County's 2019 Red Arrow Highway project and reallocate the funding to Napier Avenue east of US-31. This will be split into two projects: (1) US-31 to the Benton Township boundary and (2) from the Township boundary east to Morgan Road.

**Motion** to approve the project changes for the Berrien County Road Department as presented made by Brian Berndt, Regina Hoover. **Motion approved.**

b) Hummel said that to fund the project on Red Arrow Highway from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> streets, he would need to borrow \$38,712 in State D funds from Cass County in 2019 to be repaid in 2020. Bellina asked Mayle if MDOT would handle all the money moving without any action by the counties. Mayle replied that he keeps a spreadsheet to track all trades, which he forwards to finance. As soon as State D funding is announced in FY 2020, the finance department will handle the payback.

Because this is an agreement between counties, no formal motion by the Region 4 RTF is required. The agreement was witnessed by all present and is recorded in the meeting minutes.

**7. Review & Approval of the Region Four RTF 2020 – 2023 Fiscally Constrained Proposed Projects**

The committee reviewed the project lists, which were sent with the meeting packets (see attached). Hummel opened up the committee for discussion on the proposed projects.

Rogusta questioned why the Village of Breedsville's Pine Street projects was listed as 2022 and not earlier. He also questioned why the Main Street project was not on the list at all. Norton said Breedsville had submitted all their applications for these projects. Gallagher asked to clarify whether they sent the project application to MDOT. Norton clarified that she meant that the application was sent to SWMPC back in 2016 during the 2017-2020 call for projects. Norton said that they were on the 2017-2020 illustrative list. Hummel replied that there were many projects on the illustrative list that were not funded. It is RTF policy that any project on the Illustrative list that is not funded must be reapplied for. The Illustrative list is a list that is prioritized in case funding becomes available before the next call for projects, but zero dollars are committed to those projects.

**Motion** to approve the 2020-2023 list of projects for the entire region four Rural Task Force as presented made by Brian Berndt, seconded by Joe Bellina. **Motion approved.**

**8. Proposed changes to the all Season Road Network**

Kovnat said that there were no proposed changes to the all season road network, but there were corrections to the map.

**9. Public Comment or Privilege of the Floor**

Mayle explained more on why the Berrien projects were split. He said it was because the project crossed the TwinCATS MPO boundary. Kovnat said that it would still be let and bid together. The split is an administration function to keep track of funding inside the MPO.

Gallagher announced that the state has a new Comprehensive Infrastructure Fund for cities/villages with a population less than 10,000. These funds require a 50/50 match. This grant is funded as TEDF Category B (State B). More information on how to apply for this will be sent by SWMPC to all eligible applicants.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM