

Region Four RURAL TASK FORCE

December 5, 2019, 10:30 AM

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

Meeting Minutes

Attendance	Name	Representing
Voting Members:	Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Commission
	Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission
	Barry Antilla	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Bob Getz	Village of Baroda
	Regina Hoover	City of Bangor
	Tony Dacoba	Van Buren County Public Transit
Staff:	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
Others Present:	Dan Faulkner	Village of Lawrence
	Dan Lewis	AR Engineering, on behalf of the Village of Lawrence
	Mark Harrison	MDOT, Local Agency Programs
	Josh Grab	MDOT, Rural Task Force Program Manager
	Jaqueline LaBudie	Village of Marcellus
	Ronald Welburn	Village of Marcellus
	Jeff Wingard	Fleis & Vandenbrink (on Behalf of the Village of Bloomingdale
	Steve Strong	Village of Bloomingdale

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Joe Bellina called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Motion to add a vote for an RTF chair to the agenda made by Regina Hoover and seconded by Kevin Stack.

Revised agenda approved.

Item 2 a) vote for RTF Region Four chair:

Motion to elect Joe Bellina as the chair for the Region Four Rural Task Force made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Tony Dacoba. **Motion approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2019 Region Four RTF meeting made by Bob Getz and seconded by Regina Hoover. **Motion approved.**

4. Presentation by Mark Harrison

Harrison gave a presentation about how funding for the RTF works. He explained in detail how capping projects versus uncapped/pro-rata affects how project overruns are handled.

5. Obligation Report from 2019

Bellina asked for clarification on the 2019 obligation report about how the obligated amount could be higher than the programmed amount if the region was capped.

Kovnat explained that he had just noticed that MDOT's program for tracking projects, JobNet, always shows federal costs increasing when total project costs are over the programmed amount regardless of whether the region is capped or not. When a project has a higher obligation than the amount programmed, this actually indicates the additional local funds an agency had to add.

Kovnat pointed out in the report that all 2019 projects besides the W. Kalamazoo street project in the Village of Bloomingdale had been obligated. Wingard explained that the approval for W. Kalamazoo was delayed due to the extremely slow process to get SHPO (State Historic preservation Office) approval.

6. Status of 2020 Projects & Programing of Additional Funding

- a) **Van Buren County:** Antilla said that the Van Buren County Road Commission's Project on Red Arrow had a bid accepted.

Kovnat explained that the amount of funding the RTF programs for a future year is technically an estimate. The actual amount is based on how much money the federal government has available to disperse and if any projects across the state with biddable packages received before August 1 of the previous fiscal year will use federal funding. Typically, there is a small increase above the estimate every year. For FY 2020 Van Buren received approximately \$10,000 more than estimated which is about a 1% increase.

Anitilla said that programing of 2020 funds was the main business discussed at the Van Buren RTF meeting and will be covered in the next agenda item.

- b) **Cass County:** Bellina said he was working on his projects. Bellina added that he is aware of the time delays in getting SHPO permits and should still be able to get all of his biddable packages submitted before August 1, 2020.

Kovnat said that the amount of additional funding awarded for Cass County RTF in 2020 was far too small to add an additional project. The Cass county road Commission is the only agency with projects in 2020 that can utilize additional funding. Because the funding is well below 25% of any project currently programmed, adding funding to any project can be made administratively.

- c) **Berrien County:** Stack said that he might need to propose an amendment to the 2020 Red Arrow project; the townships want design changes and will contribute additional funds to the project. He said that he would know more shortly but the cost change would be well over 25% of the current project estimate. If an amendment is required, an additional meeting will need to be held to vote on it.

7. Review of Actions Taken at the Van Buren County RTF Meeting

Strong said that the W. Kalamazoo Street project in the Village of Bloomingdale was programmed for 2019 with an advance construct to use funding over 2019 & 2020. Because the project was not obligated in 2019 the funds for the advance construct in 2020 are unprogrammed.

Gallagher asked Strong if Bloomingdale would be able to afford the increased local match in order to fund the project. Strong said that if the Village could not come up with the amount required for the full limits from Van Buren St. west to the Village Limits, they would reduce the limits of the project.

Antilla said that the Van Buren County Road commission was planning to repair the road up to the Village limits in 2021 (W. Kalamazoo is County Road 388 outside of Bloomingdale). Antilla also said that if the Village did not complete the full portion of their project, a small segment of the road would be left in

disrepair between the Road commissions' segment and the east portion of W. Kalamazoo, which Bloomingdale reconstructed in 2017.

Bellina asked to hold off on a motion approving Bloomingdale's application. He said that if the RTF needed a meeting for Berrien County's amendment anyway, they could vote on Bloomingdale's application then. This will allow the Village of Bloomingdale to have a definitive answer about the funding and limits of the project.

Regina said that the Van Buren County RTF had also voted at their meeting to split Van Buren's remaining State D funding between each of the projects in the county that are on an all season road.

Motion for Van Buren County's unprogrammed State D funds to be split evenly between the Village of Lawrence, Village of Bloomingdale, City of Bangor and the Van Buren County Road Commission. Made by Regina Hoover and seconded by Barry Antilla. **Motion approved.**

8. Proposed Changes to the All Season Road Network

LaBurdie said that she had inquired about designating certain roads in the Village of Marcellus as all season. Bellina said that he had visited the Village and would make another visit with the other Cass County RTF members as well. Because no project using State D funding was being held up at this time, there was no urgency to approve all season road changes.

9. Public Comment or Privilege of the Floor.

None.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM. A follow up meeting will be scheduled for January, 2020.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner