



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

376 West Main Street, Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

FROM: K. John Egelhaaf

DATE: December 7, 2018

RE: Staff Report for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission December 18, 2018

Office Updates

- A. BillQuick Software
 - a. Better Bookkeeping Connection Between Budget & Expense
 - b. New Approach to Timesheet Management
 - i. No Human Interface Between Timesheet Composition & Quickbooks
- B. Staff Mental Health First Aid Training
 - a. Full Day of Training Through Lakeland Health
- C. Economic Development Administration Peer Review
 - a. Economic Development District Evaluation
 - b. Participants:
 - i. EDA Representative Lee Shirey
 - ii. Peer Reviewer From Green Bay Region
 - iii. Linda Preston
 - iv. Kristen Gundersen
 - c. SWMPC Laid Out their Bona Fides
- D. Michigan Good Food Summit Attendance
 - a. Michigan Local Food and Equity Access Discussed
- E. Quad State Directors Quarterly Meeting
 - a. KJE Met with Peers From Indiana, Illinois, & Wisconsin
 - b. Discuss Issues that Transcend State Lines & Across Lake Michigan
 - i. Project CREATE – Freight Bottleneck Fixes
 - ii. Marquette Greenway Progress
- F. US 31 Completion
 - a. KJE Guest on WNIT's *Economic Outlook* November Episode
 - i. "Transportation & Infrastructure" Discussed Importance of Corridor
 - b. www.wnit.org/economicoutlook/e/transportation-and-infrastructure.html

SWMPC Staff Report – December 18, 2018

Project Updates

A. Southwest Michigan Local Food Council

- Mission: "...evidence-based action toward...equitable regional food system...values local farmers and entrepreneurs."
- Vision: "...local food system...continually improving...food equity and quality of life in SW Michigan."
- Goals:
 - Joy of Our Food
 - Abundance & Fairness for Our Food
 - Grow Infrastructure for Our Food
- Members: farmers, food processors, restauranteurs, purchasers, schools, health professionals, food bank
- KJE Chair

B. Pucker Street Dam Removal and Dowagiac River Restoration

- SWMPC Collaboration w/City of Niles
- Dam Abandoned in 1999
 - Damage to Generator Turbines,
 - Excessively High Maintenance Costs
 - Sedimentation in Reservoir Upstream
 - Structural Safety Issues
- City Seeking to Remove Dam, Restore River
 - Dam is Only Main Stem Barrier Blocking All Fish & Aquatic Species Passage on the Dowagiac
 - 3-Miles Downstream Have Naturally Reproducing Populations of steelhead, coho, and Chinook Salmon
- Environmental Assessment Released for Public Review Until 1/7/19

C. Transportation Call for Projects

- Rural Task Force (RTF) 2020-2023
 - Berrien Approx. \$903,926 Annually
 - Cass Approx. \$705,526 Annually
 - Van Buren Approx. \$951,400 Annually
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) 2021-2023
 - Berrien Approx. \$741,858 Annually
 - Cass Approx. \$98,723 Annually
 - Van Buren Approx. \$144,783 Annually
- Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS) 2020-2023
 - Approx. \$545,000 Annually
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) 2020-2023
 - Approx. \$916,872 Annually
- Deadlines: RTF 12/12/18; CMAQ 12/12/18; NATS 12/3/18. TwinCATS 12/3/18

D. Application to MI Natural Resources Trust Fund

- Develop Individual Plans to Designate Paw Paw River & St. Joseph River as State Water Trails