



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: February 10, 2020

RE: Staff Report for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission February 18, 2020

Office Updates

A. General Staff Engagement

- a. Marcy Hamilton
 - i. Friends of Harbor Country Trails Meeting
 - ii. Friends of Berrien County Trails Meeting
 - iii. MDOT US 12 Meeting
 - iv. Water & Planning Meeting with Pokagon Band
- b. Kim Gallagher
 - i. Transportation Alternatives Statewide Project Selection Meeting
- c. John Egelhaaf
 - i. Local Food Council
 - ii. Harbor Resolution Meetings (Cities of St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, St. Joseph Township)
 - iii. Harbor Joint Meeting among thee Jurisdictions
 - iv. Healthy Berrien Consortium Meeting
 - v. Michigan Association of Regions Meeting
- d. Kris Martin
 - i. Friends of McCoy Creek Trail Meeting
 - ii. Niles Township IN-MI River Valley Trail Presentation
- e. Jerrid Burdue
 - i. Leadership Accelerator
- f. Jill Plescher
 - i. FEMA Open House
- g. Brandon Kovnat
 - i. Air Quality/JobNet Training MDOT

SWMPC Staff Report – February 18, 2020

Project Updates

- A. SWMPC Website Redesign**
 - a. Twelve Proposals Received
 - b. Three Invited to Follow-Up Interviews
 - c. Decision Due February 12
 - d. Design Phase to be Concluded June 1
- B. Mobility Management**
 - a. New Contract with Twin Cities Dial-A-Ride (\$75,000)
 - b. SWMPC Subcontracts the Mobility Management Work
 - i. Interviews with Candidates Complete
 - ii. Contract to be Signed Week of February 10th
- C. Pending Proposals**
 - a. Cass County Recreation Plan
 - b. Berrien Township Master Plan & Recreation Plan
- D. Strategic Leadership Council – Housing Diagnosis Project**
 - a. Contract Signed February 3rd (\$30,000)
 - b. Analysis of Mismatch Between Supply & Demand
 - c. Develop Problem Statement(s)
 - d. Engage Experts (Housing Advisory Committee) to Help Solve the Problem(s)
 - i. Generate Policy Recommendations
 - ii. Generate Strategies to Align Local & Regional Assets
- E. Regional Prosperity Initiative**
 - a. Project Has Concluded as of February 6th
 - b. Funding
 - i. Distributed to Remaining Projects
 - ii. Remainder Split Between South Central Planning Council & SWMPC
- F. Palisades Decommissioning Economic Recovery Plan**
 - a. EDA Funding Proposal Forthcoming
 - b. Multiple Interviews & Research on Existing Federal Process (Nuclear Regulatory Commission)
 - i. Consulting with National Experts
 - ii. EDA in Washington D.C. & Chicago
- G. Rural Broadband Strategy**
 - a. Building a Strategy to Approach Gaps in Broadband
 - b. Promising Developments with Merit
 - c. Working Closely with an “Innovation Fellow” From MSU