



- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, September 7, 2017 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Bill Joiner, Milton Reed, Thomas Golab, Africa Tarver and Randy Palmateer. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** Pam Eanes addressed the following concerns:
- Bond issued in the amount of \$750M; P. Eanes asked if the RDA had passed the approval.
 - Tax plans with the Federal Government; P. Eanes voiced her concerns on whether or not the RDA is going to move forward with the train projects since the Federal Government is planning on cutting expenses.

Ken Davidson voiced his concern regarding the RDA meeting minutes and stated that the minutes don't capture or reflect the comments made; or, the general tone of the speaker. K. Davidson urged the Board to transcribe the comments more accurately.

Julie O'Conner asked the Board, on behalf of the Concerned Families of the West Lake Corridor Project, that when the Secretary of Transportation made a visit to the Region, NICTD reported that they were confident in getting specific project ratings for the two projects that were submitted and reportedly the FTA stated that it was the best presentation they had ever seen. However, she stated that, in the Times, Mr. Hanna made a visit to Washington D.C. to talk about the projects and wanted to know if something in the expectations changed between the meeting with the Secretary of Transportation and his visit to Washington D.C.

B. Hanna responded to J. O'Conner's comments and stated that when you put in an application for any project of this scale, you go through a competitive process at the federal level and part of the intent of the trip to Washington D.C. was to inform the national representatives and audience at the administrative level with the Trump administration as to the nature of these two projects and its distinction among projects that they will be considering given the fact that the projects are 100% funded locally and state wide.

- IV. **Consent Agenda:** M. Reed motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

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| a. <u>Minutes: Board Meeting of September 7, 2017:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| b. <u>Reports: Buy Indiana Quarterly Report (3rd QTR 2017)</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| c. <u>Reports: MWBE Quarterly Expenditure Compliance (3rd QRT 2017)</u> | <i>Approved</i> |

- V. **Actions on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force:**

- i. **Funding Applications: NIRPC Travel Demand Survey:** S. Ziller reported to the Board that the application is for the approval of an RDA grant in the amount of \$46,993.30 to NIRPC for two years to complete their Household Travel Demand Survey to ensure a fair and transparent prioritization and selection process for the region's transportation funding priorities.

S. Ziller asked the Board for recommendation to approve the funding of the Travel Demand Survey for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$46,993.30.



B. Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by R. Palmateer. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- ii. **Revolving Loan Fund: Site at 4900 Cline Ave., East Chicago, IN:** S. Ziller reported that per RDA policy on administering EPA Brownfield grant dollars from the Revolving Loan Fund, the RDA is seeking approval to utilize \$672,000 from the fund for environmental cleanup for property at 4900 Cline Ave in East Chicago.

S. Ziller reported on the following:

- **Loan Repayment:** within five years of loan by way of gaming dollars.
- **Project:** Abatement of asbestos containing materials from the 10 Property buildings will be completed by end of 2017. This will allow an increased tax base for the City of East Chicago and rejuvenation for parcels of land that have been vacant for 24 years.
- **Project Timeline:** City is hopeful that dollars are committed in November 2017, project will begin Spring 2018.
- **Redevelopment Plans:** The Property will be redeveloped, increasing the tax base for the City and reusing existing developed land, preserving undeveloped land nearby.

S. Ziller asked the Board to approve the environmental remediation loan to the City of East Chicago for the property at 4900 Cline Avenue in the amount of \$672,000 based on the terms described above.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by R. Palmateer. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

M. Reed gave recognition to Jillian Huber, RDA Grants Manager, on her commitment and involvement in the day-to-day activities in East Chicago.

VI. **Project Status Review:**

a. **Surface Transportation:**

- i. **Update:** None

b. **Shoreline Redevelopment:**

- i. **Update:** None

c. **Expansion of the Gary Airport:**

- i. **Update:** None

d. **RDA Operations:**

- i. **Update:** S. Ziller gave an update to the Board on the Convention Center and reported that the staff is working with CSL and have begun the study process. The study process consists of a comprehensive analysis of project feasibility, including a significant amount of primary market research and analysis to provide the most accurate assessment of market validation and cost/benefit analysis associated with the facility development/investment under consideration. S. Ziller stated that they



have Stakeholder interviews and a windshield tour scheduled for next week and have invited over 100 stakeholders to be interviewed.

VII. Unfinished Business:

i. **Update:** *None*

VIII. New Business:

i. **Update:** *None*

IX. 2017 Future Meeting Planning: The quarterly Board structure is reflected in the planning calendar.

X. 2018 Future Meeting Dates/2018 Board Planning Calendar

XI. General Public Comment: K. Davidson commented in regard with the 3% food and beverage tax to build a convention center that the public overwhelmingly doesn't want. He also stated that there was a referendum in two cities within Lake County recently and the number one question was in regard to why the casino revenue isn't helping to support the schools.

K. Davison also voiced his concern regarding the RDA's involvement in environmental remediation in the Cline Ave. project. He believes that the entity that polluted the site prior should be responsible for the payment of the cleanup.

XII. Adjournment: Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy L Jakubin