

**I. Shoreline:**

**a. Public Comment:** *None.*

**b. Update:** B. Joiner discussed the following updates:

- 1.) Hammond Lakes Area
- 2.) Whiting Lakefront Improvements
- 3.) Gary East Marquette Park
- 4.) East Chicago Shoreline Gateway/Water Filtration Plant Demolition
- 5.) Town of Porter—Gateway to the Dunes
- 6.) Valparaiso Partnership with RDA (PES)

**i. Hammond Lakes Area:** B. Joiner reported that SEH is currently designing the South Park Trail, which includes the recently purchased property along Sheffield Park and the Sheffield entrance. Also, the Forsythe Park Promenade, Boardwalk/Bridge across Wolf Lake, the west trail and the Illiana Trail are progressing in the design stage. Construction for the Marquette Construction Phase 1; all projects are complete for 2010/2011. All scheduled activities were completed on time and within budget and scope. \$31,480,000 was committed with \$20,244,105 expended and a balance of \$11,234,895 remaining.

**ii. Whiting lakefront Improvements:** B. Joiner reported that the completion of the Whiting Lakefront project redevelopment improvements of RDA funded projects is on time, within budget and scope. These projects include the following:

- Lakeshore Promenade, Fishing Pier and Shoreline Protection; construction will begin in April 2012
- Whihala Beach Small Boat Harbor/Parking Improvements; application has been made to IDEM for another \$100,000 grant for construction of transient boat infrastructure improvements at Whihala Boat Harbor.
- Whiting Park Access and Entrance Improvements; final design and development of construction plans and specifications is on-going. Bidding should occur in summer 2012.
- Whiting Park Road Improvements; final design and development of construction plans and specifications is on-going. The City expects to bid project four beginning in the spring of 2013.
- Whiting off-street Parking; this project is completed and open for use as of July 15, 2011.
- Eastern Shoreline Restoration and Habitat Restoration Area; construction is set to begin in April 2012.
- Phase 1 Landscaping and Lighting; approximately 28% is completed with lighting and landscaping installed with other construction completed this past summer for new seating area and renovation of entertainment pavilion and new restrooms. Balance of phase 1 landscaping and lighting will be constructed with other lakefront redevelopment improvement projects.
- Phase 2 Landscaping and Lighting.

The projects listed above: \$22,008,225 has been committed with \$3,576,650 expended and a balance of \$18,431,575 remains.

**iii. Gary East Marquette Park:** B. Joiner stated that the following projects are all on time, within budget and scope.

- Father Marquette Monument, Oak Savanna Restoration, Recreation Pavilion; significant construction progress has occurred on the Recreation Pavilion. The Oak Savanna Restoration is significantly completed. The controlled burn was conducted and follow-up herbicide treatments are anticipated to occur in the spring of 2012.

- Aquatorium; construction continues on the Gary Bathing Beach Pavilion. Ongoing work at the Aquatorium includes the West courtyard concrete flatwork installation, painting, conduit installation in the West Courtyard, and masonry restoration.
- Phase 2C Projects; Children's Playground, Lake Street Beach, Lagoon, Beach Parking/Special Event Area, Infrastructure, Natural Areas and Shoreline/Beach Documentation- Contracts will be presented to the Board of Public Works & Safety on March 21, 2012 for approval. Contractors are scheduled to go before the Site Plan Review Development Committee on March 26, 2012. The notice to precede groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for the week of March 21, 2012.
- Operational Improvements; interviews have been conducted and contract negotiations are on-going with the caterer. The project team also advanced branding concept designs and conducted design progress review meetings with the Owner and Branding/Signage Designer. The project team continues to work on the recommendations plan and have prepared draft operations plan documents. These draft documents were distributed and reviewed with City staff and the Park Management Sub Committee.

The projects listed above: \$28,190,000 has been committed with, \$11,147,951 expended, and a balance of \$17,042,049 remains.

**iv. East Chicago Shoreline Gateway/Water Filtration Plant Demolition:** B. Joiner reported the following projects are on schedule, within budget and scope.

- The City continues to appraise properties for acquisition within the Community Gateway Area of the North Harbor Project for development purposes.
- The 6,000 sq. ft. office/commercial building located at Main and Broadway has been completed and is now being leased.
- The new \$12,000,000 North Town Senior citizen Building is now under construction in the 2300 block of Broadway as on October 3, 2011, with a completion date of October 2012.
- New single family housing off of Broadway Avenue is planned as the next phase of the North Harbor development. Construction could begin as early as November 2012.
- New parts for the new water filtration plant are scheduled to be installed the week of March 19, 2012.
- John Artis and American Structurepoint continue to work with the Mayor's office to define schedule of improvements for East Chicago shoreline in preparation for presentation to the RDA Board sometime early 2012.

The projects listed above: \$5,880,000 committed with \$1,708,604 expended and a balance of \$4,171,396 remains. No open issues have been reported.

**V. Town of Porter—Gateway to the Dunes:** B. Joiner stated that the Town of Porter continues to work diligently on the, "Gateway to the Indiana Dunes" projects and all scheduled activities are on time, within budget and scope.

- The Gateway Sub-Area Plan has been completed and was accepted by the Town Planning Commission and Town Council.
- Alternative Transportation Plan completed.
- The 49 Engineering Feasibility Study has been completed and accepted by INDOT (project will be leveraging an estimated \$800,000 from INDOT and \$250,000 from the DNR).

**Work On-Going includes:**

- Trail Engineering and Design from State Park to Gateway.
- Environmental Investigation.
- Project Coordination.

The projects listed: \$5,731,500 has been committed with \$1,672,597 expended and a balance of \$4,058,903 remains.

**VI. Valparaiso Partnership with RDA (PES):** B. Joiner reported that in collaboration with the City of Valparaiso, the RDA along with project partners will support the design, allocation, installation, maintenance, and performance assessment of storm water best management practices and green infrastructure preservation opportunities. The RDA is serving as the Grant Administrator to manage the US Forestry's award. The Valparaiso Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) green infrastructure is nearing completion. Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Forest Service, with additional funding from the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority and the City of Valparaiso.

**Initial Outcomes:**

- Rain barrels: a total of 38 bids were received for one or more rain barrels. The average bid for the first rain barrel was \$59, average bid for all rain barrels was \$48, and the maximum bid received was \$250. Total amount bid for rain barrels was \$3,428. A total of 60 rain barrels have been delivered, with 58 installed and only one bid of \$20 unpaid
- Rain gardens: a total of 19 bids were received for rain gardens. The average bid for a rain garden was \$393; the maximum bid was \$1,850. Total amount bid for rain gardens was \$6,387. A total of 11 rain gardens were awarded for construction, based on the estimated cost of construction minus the bid amount divided by the estimated gallons of stormwater captured. Construction of 5 of the 11 rain gardens has been completed, and the remainder is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2012, with final planting in the spring 2012.

PES project has \$20,000 committed by the RDA and \$354,878 has been leveraged.

- c. **Process and Timeline for Creation and Adoption of Work Plan:** B. Joiner stated that looking into the future the partnership between and among the RDA, NIRPC, and the Lake Michigan Coastal Program continues to work with involved units of local government to carry out the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Coordination of the Marquette Vision Efforts. Another objective is seeking expanded opportunities to stimulate private investment in conjunction with the implementation of Lakefront projects. The federal funds strategy is currently underway; administrative and stakeholder outreach is underway, and the foundation strategy is currently pending. Lastly, B. Joiner explained that another objective is to seek expended opportunities for accessing and leveraging other sources of public and private funds to augment or replace RDA funding for approved projects or for redirecting funding requests on proposed projects. The status of this objective is currently on hold as additional opportunities are being identified and pursued.

**II. Airport:**

- a. **Public Comment:** *None*
- b. **Update:** L. Morris reported that the partnership between the RDA and the Gary Chicago International Airport has evolved in tremendous ways. L. Morris turned it over to S. Landry, director of the Gary Chicago International Airport.

S. Landry reported that the Gary Chicago International Airport is still on schedule for the December 2013 deadline and the airport currently has 19 contracts that are in progress. Out of the 19 contracts there are four major projects that are being funded by the RDA and the leverage that the RDA has given to those four projects is approximately \$22 million. S. Landry also stated that out of the four projects that are being funded by the RDA, there are 17 NWI companies involved and participating in those projects. Once invoices start to come in the Airport will have a breakdown of all the companies. Landry stated

there are a lot of companies and a lot of people who are working in NWI and that's because of the support the RDA has given.

L. Martinez asked S. Landry for an update on Allegiant Air and the impact it has brought to the airport.

S. Landry stated that Allegiant Air has been doing extremely well and has been able to forecast out until the end of May 2012. Currently about 5,000 seats have been booked. That number is extremely important because the threshold for the airport receiving a certain amount of money from the FAA under the, Airport Improvement Program is based off of seats sold. If you get less than 10,000 seats sold you will receive \$150,000 from the FAA and if you get 10,000 or more passengers you will receive \$1 million from the FAA. That money can be used for infrastructure and expansion costs. Allegiant has currently booked 5,000 passengers so they are already halfway there.

c. **Process and Timeline for Creation and Adoption of Work Plan:** L. Morris reported that there are two major priorities that have been targeted for the Airport working group. The first priority is to foster a deeper partnership between the RDA and GYY authorities which includes:

- Facilitating an agreement upon the Landrum and Brown Comprehensive Business Plan which will help guide the Airport's future trajectory and the timetable for its implementation. Joint task forces are meeting on a regular basis; work plan is currently being followed; Landrum & Brown's engagement is currently pending.
- Determination of the role of the Compact with the City of Chicago on the future of Airport development in accordance to the LBCBP. That of which will include L&B as an active partner. Chicago relationship is currently building and is underway.
- Formulations of a transportation strategy for enhanced highway access. Communication and coordination with the City of Gary and INDOT are underway as of January 2012, as well as an Airport stakeholder meeting.
- Formulations for a redevelopment strategy for land use, which began in January of 2012. Communications and coordination with the City of Gary and IEDC are currently being convened.
- Exploration of freight logistics envisioned for the Airport and its integration with regional and state level logistics planning efforts; coordination with IEDC and Conexus Indiana began in January of 2012 along with communications with the City of Gary and IEDC has begun.

The second priority is to promote regional collaboration in the executing of the final railroad MOU and in launching the extension of the main runway projects. The action steps that are being taken include:

- Coordination with AECOM's communication strategy and joint task force which began in February of 2012.
- Conducting a groundbreaking ceremony of railroad relocation/runway extension projects which began in January of 2012.

d. **Other:** *None*

### III. **RBA:**

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

b. **Update:** L. Morris reported that as a prelude to the next two reports he recommended to combine the two working groups that of which include the RBA and NICTD into a single working group called the Surface Transportation working group. One of the goals of the RDA all along has been to find a way to gain synergy between and among the components of surface transportation. The RDA has felt that by combining the RBA and NICTD working groups into a unified group we can focus on gaining a greater benefit for this region. L. Martinez will be the Chairperson of the group and H. Snyder along with E.

Glover will be key members of that working group. L. Morris turned it over to L. Martinez to give an update on the RBA.

L. Martinez stated that ongoing conversations have been convened with the City of Gary and the RBA in regards to resolving the underlying issues in securing a sustainable long-term funding solution for the RBA. Those meetings have not been as productive, but with the support and efforts being brought forward by B. Hanna and P. Novak the RBA has been able to convene meetings with the Mayor's to sit down and discuss future bus services. The end results of those meetings were that the Mayors have all agreed to work together to devise a plan which has been forwarded to them for their signatures.

B.Hanna stated that there was a draft that was development. Our next step is to see if we can get a final agreement and see what it is that we need to accomplish in order to move forward.

c. **Other:** *None*

IV. **NICTD:**

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

b. **Update:** H. Snyder reported that the capital investment from the RDA to NICTD has a total commitment of roughly \$17.5 million. NICTD has had ongoing discussions primarily with the NICTD administrative staff regarding the various issues that face NICTD. The meetings also included the discussion of a long-term funding source. All issues are being brought forward to devise a strong business plan. Meetings are being convened with representatives of the NICTD Board and a meeting is scheduled at the end of March 2012. H. Snyder concluded that NICTD is moving forward with positive signs in an effort to move the rail transportation into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century.

c. **Process and Timeline for Creation and Adoption of Work Plan:** H. Snyder stated that the main objective for NICTD is to gain consensus on the various alternative approaches to enhance the current and future positive impact of NICTD commuter train service on the region's economy and quality of life including, but not limited to:

- Alternate routes; initial stakeholder outreach meetings are currently being held.
- Plans for obtaining require capital funding; initial stakeholder meetings have already been held that of which started in February of 2012; strategies are also being formulated.
- Plans for generating ongoing operating funding in which NICTD is working on a timeline.
- Integration with other modes and/or providers of public transportation.
- Implementation steps and timetable in which a draft plan has been initiated.

d. **Other:** *None.*

V. **Economic Development:**

a. **Update:** P. Novak reported that along with B. Joiner and J. Good they will be focusing on policies and processes in terms of how the RDA participates in economic development. He also expressed his excitement in this opportunity in chairing the Economic Development working group.

b. **Process and Timeline for Creation and Adoption of Work Plan:** P. Novak discussed the objectives for the working group which include:

- Specifying potential private sector investment opportunities and gaining support for the RDA's future role in assisting IEDC with economic development efforts of regional significance; this includes understanding and clarifying the RDA's role in economic development and managing

prospective projects in accordance with policy. Two opportunities have been presented to the RDA; other opportunities are under discussion.

- Implementing the Job Creation Fund program in partnership with IEDC which will manage prospective projects in accordance with policy.

c. **Other:** *None.*

**VI. Administrative:**

- a. **Update:** B. Hanna made a recommendation to adopt combining the RBA and NICTD working group into one group identifies as the Surface Transportation working group.

B.Joiner motions to approve the request with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

B.Hanna also reported that the RDA was given notice of their financial audit and that no material weaknesses were noted in the audit. He was happy to announce that even in draft form the audits continue to improve each year. B. Hanna credits S. Ziller, Finance and Grants Manager from the RDA along with B. Sheldrake for their tremendous work.

- b. **Process and Timeline for Creation and Adoption of Workplan:** B. Hanna reported that the RDA is currently working to develop and implement an overall communication strategy to raise awareness of the RDA's positive economic impact on state, regional, and local levels. In addition, the RDA is developing and implementing a strategic plan to guide the RDA through 2015.

c. **Other:** *None.*

**VII. Other Business:** *None*

**VIII. General Public Comment:** *None*

**IX. Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by, Amy Jakubin.