

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

December 18, 2025 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:15 a.m.

Members present

Bob Carnahan, Denise Ebert, Wendy Mis, Courtney Parthun, David Phelps, Gerald Swets

Staff and others present

George Topoll, David Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Talaya Jones, Meredith Stilwell, Lisa Todd, Darin Sherman

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Wendy Mis called the meeting to order at 8:24 a.m.

NIRPC Resolution 25-17: FY 2026 Budget

Chairwoman Mis noted that the Committee reviewed the budget at its October meeting and requested an explanation of any subsequent changes. NIRPC Accountant Darin Sherman outlined the updates:

- **Attachment B** was revised due to an early bus delivery and payment.
- **Attachment D** now includes an additional \$80,000 for the La Porte RLF 2026 Administration Budget.

Sherman explained that NIRPC Resolution 24-04 authorizes payment of remaining non-award funds in the RLF to La Porte and Michigan City every two years, following the RLF's defederalization. NIRPC recently learned that the business holding the final RLF loan is being put up for sale. If the sale occurs, there will be no remaining loans, and the remaining funds can be distributed to La Porte and Michigan City.

With no questions on the budget, Chairwoman Mis called for a motion. On motion by Gerald Swets, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition, the Committee recommended the budget for approval by the NIRPC Full Commission.

Other Business

Ty Warner reported that the 2026 Commission calendar is included in the meeting packet. He noted that there will be no meetings in October or December. Director of Finance Talaya Jones indicated that the budget can be recommended and approved during the November meetings.

Ty stated that the most recent hire occurred in August and reported the departure of an administrative staff member. The vacant administrative position will not be filled. Ty expressed interest in creating a communications and design role but noted that the current budget allocation for the administrative position would not cover this. He will explore the possibility of a retainer arrangement after January 1.

Commissioner Gerald Swets inquired about the timing of new committee assignments. Ty explained that assignments are made after the new NIRPC Chair is appointed at the January meeting. Based on the usual rotation, Mayor Bonta is expected to serve as the next Chair. Chairwoman Mis advised that Commissioners wishing to change committee assignments should speak directly with the Mayor.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 am.