

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

April 16, 2026 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:00 a.m.

Members present

Austin Bonta, Bob Carnahan, Anthony Ferraro, Kiesha Hardaway, David Phelps, Wendy Mis, Courtney Parthun, Gerald Swets

Staff and others present

David Hollenbeck, George Topoll, Ty Warner, Talaya Jones, Meredith Stilwell, Tom Vander Woude, Charles Bradsky, Darin Sherman, Denarie Kane

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Wendy Mis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Financial Status – December 2025

The December 2025 financials, bank reconciliations for the NIRPC general fund, CARES funds, Revolving Loan, and Marquette Greenway accounts, and expense and revenue reports for the NIRPC general and CARES funds were provided electronically for review before the meeting. The reports were also provided in the Committee meeting packet. Talaya Jones presented bank reconciliations and financial statements to those present.

As of December 31, 2025, year-to-date expenditures totaled \$9,785,491 of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. The underspending in the Marquette Greenway contractual line item was attributed to the project not yet being fully underway and the pending signed amendment from Federal Highway. Salary expenditures were also under budget due to the departure of one employee. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$3,258,169 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted. Talaya explained that revenues were under-collected due to the timing of the Marquette Greenway project and have been reprogrammed in the 2026 budget.

As of December 31, 2025, year-to-date NIRPC CARES fund expenditures totaled \$409,235 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Talaya explained that expenditures exceeded the budget due to the timing of an FTA amendment, which was not approved until early 2025. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$411,740 of the \$235,800 budget.

The December 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$860,559.31 were presented and approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, with no opposition. The December 2025 Marquette Greenway claims totaling \$61,400 were presented and approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, and with no opposition.

Review of Financial Status – January 2026

The January 2026 financials, bank reconciliations for the NIRPC general fund, CARES funds, Revolving Loan, and Marquette Greenway accounts, and expense and revenue reports for the NIRPC general and CARES funds were provided electronically for review before the meeting. The reports were also provided in the Committee meeting packet. Talaya Jones presented bank reconciliations and financial statements to those present.

As of January 31, 2026, total expenditures were \$283,199 of the \$15,929,800 budget. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$140,119 of the \$6,199,690 budget. Talaya explained that grants are reimbursed quarterly.

As of January 31, 2026, year-to-date NIRPC CARES fund expenditures totaled \$3,810 of the \$45,000 budget. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$3,817.00 of the \$23,000 budget.

The January 2026 General Fund claims totaling \$232,140.78 were presented and approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, with no opposition. The cost of NIRPC's rent and utilities was discussed. January 2026 CARES claims totaling \$3,810 were then presented and approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, and with no opposition. January 2026 RLF claims were presented and approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, and with no opposition. The payment to Purdue University was explained. NIRPC contracted with Purdue to complete the CEDs, with payment made from defederalized RLF funds. The final payment was being

withheld until the EDA approved the CEDs. The approval was received in April, which now allows for the final payment to be made.

Review of Financial Status – February 2026

The February 2026 financials, bank reconciliations for the NIRPC general fund, CARES funds, Revolving Loan, and Marquette Greenway accounts, and expense and revenue reports for the NIRPC general and CARES funds were provided electronically for review before the meeting. The reports were also provided in the Committee meeting packet. Talaya Jones presented bank reconciliations and financial statements to those present.

As of February 28, 2026, total expenditures were \$500,511 of the \$15,929,800 budget. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$164,555 of the \$6,199,690 budget.

As of February 28, 2026, year-to-date NIRPC CARES fund expenditures totaled \$6,017 of the \$45,000 budget. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$6,025 of the \$23,000 budget.

The February 2026 General Fund claims totaling \$219,174.38 were presented and approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, with no opposition.

Procurement Recommendation

Talaya presented a procurement recommendation for 18 vehicles. Three (3) for Opportunity Enterprises for \$284,456, not to exceed \$227,565 in federal funds. Five (5) for Porter County Aging Community Services for \$383,029, not to exceed \$206,423 in federal funds. One (1) for Lake County Community Services for \$187,790, not to exceed \$150,232 in federal funds. Five (5) for Lake County Community Services for \$740,265, not to exceed \$592,212 in federal funds. Two (2) for La Porte TransPorte for \$29,058, not to exceed \$23,246 in federal funds. Two (2) for Opportunity Enterprises for \$437,500, not to exceed \$350,000 in federal funds. It was noted that all purchases may not be made this year, and the difference between the total cost and federal funds, not to exceed the amount, constitutes the local match. On a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, and with no opposition, the procurements were favorably recommended for presentation to the Full Commission/Executive Board for approval. A discussion was held on what happens to vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life, and on how to make the process easier and more profitable.

NIRPC Resolution 26-06: 2026-2028 EDA Partnership Planning Grant Application

Denarie Kane presented resolution 26-06, authorizing the submittal of an Economic Development Administration FY 2026-2028 Partnership Planning Grant Application to Administer the Economic Development District. NIRPC has pledged unrestricted, unencumbered, and committed funds as a local match for the planning grant for up to \$210,000. Unlike in past years, EDA invited NIRPC to apply for a three-year grant. On a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, and with no opposition, Resolution 26-06 was favorably recommended for presentation to the Full Commission/Executive Board for approval.

Contract: Corradino LLC – 2026 Road Safety Audits

Tom Vander Woude presented the contract between NIRPC and Corradino LLC, a traffic engineering and planning company based in Indianapolis, for road safety audits, with a cost not to exceed \$77,485.41. Corradino was the only respondent to the RFP from earlier this year. They were the awardee for the prior RFP to perform the road safety audits. The plan is to repeat the process every other year. These audits can help communities when they apply for funding. David Phelps suggested sharing the results post-mortem to show the value of the money spent. On a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Gerald Swets, and with no opposition, the contract was favorably recommended for presentation to the Full Commission/Executive Board for approval.

Personnel updates

None

Other Business

Talaya reported that NIRPC is switching to the cloud, and the office will be closed on May 4 for digital cleanup. She also reported that the 2025 calendar year audit has begun.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.