

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

July 8, 2025 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:30 a.m.

Members present

Denise Ebert, Wendy Mis, David Phelps

Staff and others present

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

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Wendy Mis called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Wendy Mis appointed George Topoll as a voting member for the July 8, 2025 Leadership Committee.

A short discussion was held regarding House Enrolled Act 1509, which requires the disclosure of the appointing authority and term of an appointed public officer in the meeting notice and agenda, and the board's website. It was questioned if this would apply to all meetings or just the Commission and if NIRPC is considered a political subdivision regarding the requirement of HEA 1509. Ty supplied a handout from Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (aim) regarding the bill.

Approval of Minutes

May 13, 2025, Leadership Committee meeting minutes were presented. The minutes were approved on a motion by David Phelps, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition.

Review of Financial Status – April and May 2025 Budget vs Actual

The April and May 2025 financials, bank reconciliations for the NIRPC general fund, CARES funds, 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. David Phelps remarked that the salary percentage was a bit off for the number of months in the year. It was noted that a budgeted position has yet to be filled.

Year-to-date, April 30, 2025, total expenditures were \$2,772,848, of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$748,216 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted.

Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures year-to-date, April 30, 2025, were \$167,288 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$169,048 of the \$235,800 budgeted.

Year-to-date, May 31, 2025, total expenditures were \$3,715,999 of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$783,194 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted.

Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures year-to-date, May 31, 2025, were \$167,288 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$169,176 of the \$235,008 budgeted.

Approval of Claims Registers – April 2025

The April 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$731,776.79 were presented to the Committee. Chairperson Mis noted that a bus was purchased. The claims of \$731,776.79 were approved on a motion by David Phelps, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition.

The April 2025 Marquette Greenway claims totaling \$74,550.00 were then presented for approval. The CARES fund claims of \$74,550.00 were approved on a motion by David Phelps, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition.

Approval of Claims Registers – May 2025

The May 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$830,897.79 to the Committee. The claims of \$830,897.79 were approved on a motion by David Phelps, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition.

The May 2025 Marquette Greenway claims totaling \$36,805.00 were then presented for approval. The

claims of \$36,805.00 were approved on motion by Denise Ebert, seconded by David Phelps, and with no opposition.

NIRPC Resolution 25-14: Cooperative Agreement with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority to Participate in the Hoosier Homes Homebuyer Assistance Program

Ty presented Resolution 25-14 for the Committee's consideration, recommending it be forwarded to the Commission for approval. The Fort Wayne Housing Authority (FWHA) sponsors the Hoosier Homes Homebuyer Assistance Program, offering HUD, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac-eligible mortgage loans, along with down payment and closing cost assistance for homes in eligible counties. FWHA invited NIRPC to join the program on behalf of its member communities.

Ty mentioned uncertainty about NIRPC's role but noted that the Terre Haute Regional Council adopted the same resolution and reported positive results with no required involvement. He emphasized that the resolution clearly states NIRPC resources will not be used. He also mentioned that Attorney Hollenbeck conducted a preliminary review of the program and found no legal obstacles to participation.

Chairperson Mis briefly reviewed the program online, noting it operates out of Gary and questioned the implications of NIRPC's endorsement. Due to unresolved questions and lack of urgency, the Committee agreed that recommending approval at this time would be premature. They concluded that further due diligence and information are needed.

Personnel updates

Ty reported that the Technical Assistant position has been retooled and is being filled. The position would fulfill a contract with INDOT for traffic counting, which brings in income for NIRPC. Meredith reported that interviews are being conducted this week.

Other Business

Ty noted that an email had been sent to the Commissioners with an invitation from Governor Braun to join him at the Gary Airport

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 am.