

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Online/Conference Call

July 2, 2015

**Members/Guests:** Geof Benson, Carl Lisek, Dorreen Carey, Ethan Brown, Arber Himaj, Linda Wilson, Brenda Scott-Henry, Deb Backhus, Kevin Breitzke, Maggie Byrne, Mike Milatovic, Gia Wagner

**NIRPC Staff:** Kathy Luther, Meredith Stilwell

### Call to order

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

### Approval of June 4, 2015 EMPC Minutes

On a motion by Dorreen Carey and second by Deb Backhus, the June 4, 2015 EMPC meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

### CMAQ Funding Update – *Kathy Luther, NIRPC*

NIRPC Board Resolution 11-21 delegated establishment of selection criteria, scoring and prioritization of CMAQ project types with a primarily environmental function. The most recent CMAQ funding cycle notice, with \$13.4m available for Lake and Porter Counties and \$1.5m for La Porte County, was released in November of 2014.

At the March EMPC meeting the Committee requested that NIRPC convene the multi-stakeholder CMAQ working group, rather than the TPC to determine the percentages which was the process initially published in the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA). Further, the EMPC recommended an even 25% allocation to each category. The EMPC also requested that an EMPC sub-committee be established to establish criteria and prioritize projects. The environment and other category consists of projects that don't have a traffic related benefit. The sub-committee reviewed 14 applications from Lake and Porter Counties, 2 of which were determined ineligible based on Federal Highways position on vehicle to vehicle replacement leaving 12 eligible projects totaling almost \$3m. At the June 30 CMAQ stakeholder group meeting the sub-committee successfully requested the entire list to be approved. Since Federal Highway divides our region into two metro areas, La Porte County typically negotiates their own selections and has already convened and completed the process.

The list of projects was made available through the NIRPC website for review by the committee. Kathy explained the projects in detail per request by Chairman Benson and if the EMPC accepts this list it will then go to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for approval. After TPC approval, the projects are then reviewed for eligibility determination by an interagency consultation task force consisting of Federal Highway Authority (FHWA), Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Federal Transit Authority (FTA), and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). If determined eligible the projects will be put in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The funds will be available July, 2016 and go out to 2021. In two years additional monies will be available for 2021 and 2022. Due to a new committee structure, this might be the only time EMPC will be able to vote on this in this manner. Kevin Breitzke motioned to accept the list of projects with a favorable recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee with special thanks to the sub-committee. With a second from Dorreen Carey, no further discussion and no opposition, the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29.