

NIRPC Full Commission Meeting
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
January 18, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Michael Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted that the meeting is being live-streamed. Self-introductions were made.

Commissioners present included Christopher Anderson, Jeannette Bapst, Geof Benson, Robert Carnahan, Anthony Copeland, Bill Emerson, Jr., Don Ensign, Will Farrellbegg, Tom Fath, Michael Griffin, Richard Hardaway, Jack Jeralds, Jane Jordan, Justin Kiel, Cary Kirkham, Mark Krentz, Andrew Kyles, Jeff Larson, Rich Mrozinski, Diane Noll, Brian Snedecor, Joe Stahura, Greg Stinson, Mary Tanis, Jim Ton and George Topoll. Joyce Newland participated via conference phone.

Guests present included Ryan Lisek, Shawn Seals, Lauri Keagle, Justin Mount, Rick Powers, Lyndsay Quist, Matt Deitchley, David Wright, Junell O'Donnell, Ismail Attallah, Dean Button, Zully Alvarado, Mike Yacullo, Jeff Huet, Tim Werner, Fred Williams, Tom Regalado, Heather Kennedy, Don Oliphant, Kay Nelson, Jonathan Kruger, Tom Silich, Jim Nowacki, Laura Velushko, Andrew Steele and Tim Zorn.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Daria Sztaba, Trey Wadsworth, Charles Bradsky, Allen Hammond, Eman Ibrahim, Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, Scott Weber, James Winters, Stephen Sostaric, Jody Melton, Gabrielle Biciunas and Mary Thorne.

Public Comment

Jim Nowacki, resident of Gary, commented on his concerns about sidewalk and roadway conditions, particularly on US Highways 12 and 20 and the Broadway project in Gary.

New Appointments

David Hollenbeck announced the appointments of Jane Jordan from the Town of Burns Harbor and Karen Freeman Wilson from the City of Gary.

Presentation

Shawn Seals, DieselWise Indiana Administrator of the Office of Air Quality, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) presented on the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Program. More than \$2.7 billion in grant fund will soon be available for fleet and equipment repowers or replacements. The trust program resulted from an emissions mitigation settlement with the US Environmental Protection Agency. The program would reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution. Indiana's portion of the settlement amounts to about \$41 million. The solicitation for projects will be released in summer or fall of 2018. For more information, go to <http://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/2712.htm>. To submit comments on the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, go to VWTrust@idem.in.gov. Questions should be directed to Shawn Seals at 317- 233-0425 or SSeals@idem.IN.gov.

Minutes

On a motion by Bob Carnahan and a second by Jeff Larson, the minutes of the December 14, 2017 Full Commission meeting were approved by the Full Commission.

Report of the Chair

Michael Griffin said that under NIRPC's enabling legislation, NIRPC's Full Commission is required to vote on the election of officers. The Nominating Committee met in December and presented the slate of officers and the Executive Board. The slate presented was:

Officers:	Chair	Geof Benson
	Vice Chair	Diane Noll
	Secretary	Karen Freeman-Wilson
	Treasurer	George Topoll

Executive Board:

Lake County:	Anthony Copeland
Lake County:	Tom McDermott
LaPorte County:	Mark Krentz
LaPorte County:	Justin Kiel
Porter County:	Jim Ton
Porter County:	Greg Stinson

The continued appointment of Rep. Ed Soliday as the Governor's appointee to the Executive Board is assumed. Michael Griffin will serve as Immediate Past Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by Don Ensign, the Commission voted to adopt the 2018 slate as presented.

The 2018 Schedule of Meetings was adopted on a motion by George Topoll and a second by Jeff Larson. Bob Carnahan asked why the commission will meet in November this year and not in December. Ty Warner responded that there are some performance measure targets and the timeline is to approve them in November. As the third Thursday falls on November 15, there is no conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Michael Griffin invited the new members to come up after the meeting to get their NIRPC membership pins. Michael Griffin turned the gavel over to newly-elected Chairman Geof Benson. To celebrate his service as 2017 Chairman, Geof Benson and Ty Warner presented Michael Griffin with the Gavel Plaque.

Report of the Executive Director

Ty Warner commented that the Year in Review will be coming out shortly. He congratulated the City of Hobart on its new CNG fueling station.

Mr. Warner introduced NIRPC's Chief Accountant, Talaya Jones from East Chicago and Trey Wadsworth, NIRPC's Transportation Director who hails from Massachusetts DOT.

Mr. Warner announced that Geof Benson will serve as President of the National Association of Regional Councils. Justin Kiel is on the board and Dave Shafer continues to serve as past president. NARC's annual Conference of regions will take place on February 12-14 in Washington DC with legislative hill visits to follow.

Geof Benson noted that Karen Freeman Wilson is serving on the National League of Cities.

Finance & Personnel Committee

The committee did not meet this morning.

Environmental Management Policy Committee

Geof Benson said the January meeting was cancelled; the next meeting is February 1 at 9 a.m.

Technical Planning Committee

George Topoll reported that the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) met on January 9 and heard updates from staff and shown short videos on sneckdowns and interesting infrastructure features. The meeting was streamed live.

Stephen Sostaric explained Resolution 18-02, supporting Indiana Department of Transportation's safety performance measure targets for fatalities and injuries. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 18-02 as presented.

Charles Bradsky explained Resolution 18-01, Amendment #8 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for one project in Porter County and two projects in Munster as recommended by the TPC. On a motion by Michael Griffin and a second by Greg Stinson, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 18-01, FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendment #8.

The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee is scheduled for February 13, 2018 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Indiana Department of Transportation

Rick Powers reported that they have been fighting the winter weather since Christmas Eve. Pothole and other repairs are on hold until warmer weather breaks.

Legislative Committee

Mary Tanis said the committee has not met, but there are three topics for discussion: tax appeals, infrastructure and water. We need to provide data to our legislators and communities were encouraged to submit any data they have to Mary Tanis. A meeting will be scheduled within the first couple of weeks in February. Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) is going through a lot of the legislation downstate.

Other Business

Geof Benson said committee information will be going out shortly so that we can update our committee participation for 2018.

Michael Griffin spoke on his tenure as NIRPC Commissioner since 2003 and as past Chair and recognized past chairs, Brian Snedecor, Joe Stahura, Jim Ton and Geof Benson. He praised the work of the 53 Commissioners to come together as a regional voice.

Announcements

- Bob Carnahan announced that the 16 small to mid-sized Lake County communities known simply as "16 Plus" will meet next Friday at 9:00 a.m. at Schererville Town Hall. The Lake County Council will discuss their master plan.
- Greg Stinson announced the passing of retired Porter fire chief Louis T. Craig. Chesterton and Burns Harbor Fire Departments are assisting.
- Anthony Copeland announced that East Chicago has a balanced budget.
- Andrew Kyles announced that the Crossroads Chamber of Commerce is hosting Senator Joe Donnelly in Merrillville on February 16 from 8-9 a.m.
- Ty Warner said the DC visit in February will also discuss avoiding the next cliff in highway funding. We will also be seeking support for the EDA so that we obtain our economic development district designation, and the

importance of the census in obtaining funding. Mr. Warner thanked Stephen Sostaric for his work announcing that he is leaving to work with the Illinois Soybean Association.

Adjournment

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Jim ton and a second by Diane Noll, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

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