

# NIRPC Executive Board Meeting

6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN

October 20, 2022 Minutes

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Justin Kiel, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

## **New Appointments to the Commission**

Dave Hollenbeck announced there were no new appointments to the Commission.

**Roll call** - Taken by Candice Eklund.

## **Present**

The 6 Executive Board members present at the meeting included Bill Emerson (Lake County Surveyor), Richard Hardaway (Merrillville), Justin Kiel (La Crosse), Wendy Mis (Munster), Sue Lynch (Portage), and Jim Ton (Chesterton).

The 4 other Commissioners present at the meeting included Janet Beck (Pottawattomie Park), Kevin Breitzke (Porter County Surveyor), Robert Forster (Kouts), and George Topoll (Union Township). Also present was Lisa Shrader representing INDOT.

## **Absent**

The 4 Executive Board members absent at the meeting included Tom Dermody (LaPorte), Sheila Matias (LaPorte County Commissioner), Jim Pressel (Governor Appointee), and Lori Mercer (Westville).

Staff present included Ty Warner, Thomas Dow, Lisa Todd, Eman Ibrahim, Mitch Barloga, Denarie Kane, Kevin Polette, Candice Eklund, and attorney Dave Hollenbeck.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 15, 2022, Executive Board meeting minutes were approved on motion by Sue Lynch and seconded by Richard Hardaway.

## **Report of the Chair – Justin Kiel**

Justin Kiel had no updates to report.

## **Report of the Executive Director - Ty Warner**

Mr. Warner discussed the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) conference and NARC Board Retreat that he and Justin Kiel attended this week. Ty was appreciative for the opportunity to attend this conference with over 50 Executive Directors from other regional councils across the country. Three initiatives focused on were the opportunity to connect with other peers, communicating planning concepts for the next generation and how to get them involved, and the new relationship with an organization called METropolitan Exchange (METREX), similar to NARC, but among European countries. Another topic discussed was the raised awareness of the rollout for the 988 national hotline for mental health.

Ty reported that Thomas Dow is spearheading the updates to NWI 2050+, NIRPC's update of the region's long-range comprehensive plan. There are three phases of the development of the plan, and the project is entering phase 2. The online survey to help determine transportation priorities is still open. Just as NIRPC staff was at county fairs throughout the summer, staff is holding pop up events at bike shops across the region to discuss this plan. Thomas Dow has also been working to establish a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana, which is in line with the initiatives Ty discussed above to get the next generation involved in planning concepts.

### **Finance & Personnel Committee (F&P) – Richard Hardaway**

Richard Hardaway reported the F&P Committee met this morning to review the financial reports, bank reconciliations and claims registers for September 2022. The F&P Committee brought the action item below to the Executive Board with a favorable recommendation.

- Eco-Interactive Contract Addendum III, presented by Lisa Todd. In 2017, NIRPC entered into a five-year contract with Eco-Interactive, who provides the electronic Transportation Improvement Program (eTIP) system. The contract addendum is seeking approval to extend the contract for two years with a cost not to exceed \$50,600 for year six and \$53,130 for year seven. On motion by Bill Emerson and seconded by Jim Ton, the Executive Board approved the Addendum to extend the Eco-Interactive contract for two years.

### **Technical Planning Committee (TPC) – Kevin Breitzke**

Kevin Breitzke reported the TPC met on October 4, 2022. The TPC favorably recommended the three action items below to the Executive Board for consideration and approval. The next TPC meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

- Resolution #22-19: Adopting NIRPC Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program eligibility, Supporting Report, and Scoring Criteria. Eman Ibrahim provided an overview of NIRPC's new TOD initiative that came as a recommendation from the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Framework Plan and NWI 2050. This initiative has received support from One Region, RDA, and NICTD. The TODs eligible for funding are 13 train stations along the South Shore Line and West Lake corridors as well as five bus stations (East Chicago, Gary, Merrillville, and Valparaiso). The TOD program will also be included in the NOFA application this year. There will be \$600,000 in funding allocated to this initiative over the next four years. The approved TOD document can be found on NIRPC's website at [https://nirpc.org/wp-content/uploads/TOD\\_Final-Draft\\_10-16-22.pdf](https://nirpc.org/wp-content/uploads/TOD_Final-Draft_10-16-22.pdf). On motion by Jim Ton and seconded by Richard Hardaway, the Executive Board approved Resolution #22-19.
- Resolution #22-20: FY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment #22-07. Mitch Barloga stated there were no comments received during the 21-day public comment period or from the Interagency Consultation Group. Mitch noted the various projects included in Amendment #7. On motion by Richard Hardaway and seconded by Bill Emerson, the Executive Board approved Resolution #22-20.
- Resolution #22-21: FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1. Thomas Dow presented this resolution. The first change to the UPWP is for \$55,000 for the Eco-Interactive contract addendum and the second is to allow NIRPC to contract a GIS spatial analyst to help with mapping needs. This request is to transfer funding from one line item to another in the budget to cover both costs. On motion by Sue Lynch and seconded by Jim Ton, the Executive Board approved Resolution #22-21.

It was noted that Structure Point will provide a presentation on the Willowcreek Road extension project on November 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Porter County Expo Center.

### **INDOT – Lisa Shrader**

Lisa Shrader presented for Matt Deitchley. Lisa did not have any updates to report on but did note that INDOT is looking forward to announcing the Community Crossings awards in early November.

### **Other Business**

No other business was reported.

### **Announcements**

Janet Beck announced Regina Rudell, also in attendance, will be taking her place as the Pottawattamie Parks representative on NIRPC's Commission in 2023.

George Topoll informed the Commissioners that Robert Carnahan is recovering from an illness.

Ty Warner said that with struggling to obtain a quorum lately, he wanted to inform the Commissioners that the December meeting will be held on December 8, 2022 and will be of the Full Commission. Attendance will be important as resolutions need to be approved at this meeting.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no other business, Justin Kiel adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

*The livestream video recording of this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4uzvN2dIPQ>*