

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting  
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN  
June 20, 2013  
Minutes

**Call to Order:** Chairman Dave Uran called the Executive Board meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present included Nancy Adams, Roosevelt Allen, Jr., John Bayler, Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Anthony Copeland, Jeff Dekker, Stan Dobosz, Don Ensign, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Jeff Freeze, Tom McDermott, Blair Milo, Pamela Richard, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, Ed Soliday, Greg Stinson, James Ton and Dave Uran.

Others present included Robert Alderman, Victor Austin, Reggie Arkell, Justin Mount, Keith Benman, Jim Earl, Jim Pinkerton, Chris Murphy, David Wright, Joyce Newland, Rebecca "Sis" Williams, AJ Monroe, Christopher Meyers, Philip Roth, Carole Carlson, Rudy Velasco, Dan Gardner, Renae Jackson, Jim Nowacki, Teresa Torres, George Janiec, and Val Gomez.

Staff present included Ty Warner, David Hollenbeck, Angie Hayes, Gabrielle Biciunas, Kathy Luther, Eman Ibrahim, Mitch Barloga, Jody Melton, Kevin Garcia, Sarah Geinosky, Stephen Sostaric, Bill Brown, Belinda Petroskey, Allen Hammond, and Mary Thorne.

**Report of the Chair:** Chairman Uran reported that a sub-committee of NIRPC has been formed to hear concerns by Everybody Counts on the Public Participation Plan. Five commission members volunteered: Anthony Copeland appointed as committee Chair, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Geof Benson, Michael Griffin and George VanTil. The meeting will take place on July 2 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC. It is a public meeting with open dialogue and commissioners are welcome. The sub-committee will then issue its findings to the commission. The National Association of Regional Councils meeting will be held in Philadelphia next week. Dave Shafer will end his term as President of the council at the meeting.

**Presentation - Certification Review:** Reggie Arkell, Joyce Newland, Victor Austin. The review will be presented late September or early October. NIRPC staff answered over 200 written questions. Some regional statistics were shared. Comment was made on NIRPC's accessibility by transit to its offices. NIRPC was commended for its 2040 Plan, beginning the implementation with Creating Livable Centers and Livable Centers Initiative, the TIP scoring process, efforts in the TAP program, Complete Streets, environmental justice efforts, community ADA transition plans. NIRPC needs to identify projects under MAP-21 and get them obligated by 2014. Concerns include comments on the public participation plan, air quality conformity determination under EPA's new budgets, ITS Architecture. The new regulation to have transit representation on MPO boards was discussed. Guidance will be available later this year. 12 performance measures and standards will be created with regard to bridge and pavement conditions, safety, congestion mitigation and local sources in the performance of national highway and interstate systems. Guidance on the measures and standards will be published over the coming year. Under transit, MAP-21 also establishes a performance-based program for transit asset management and one for public transportation safety. Guidance will be published later this year. A 30-90 day comment period on guidance to be developed on MAP-21 will be held; notice will be given. Commissioner Carnahan commented on the opportunity for small communities to be represented on the NIRPC Board. Commissioner Shafer commented that as President of NARC, he has received many compliments at several conferences on the excellent work NIRPC is doing in transportation planning. NIRPC addresses

any and all comments received. Commissioners receive updates from staff regularly. Ty Warner remarked the certification review process was educational and appreciated the relationship with the federal agencies.

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Nancy Adams, the minutes of the May 23 Executive Board meeting were approved with the time of adjournment to be changed to 1 p.m.

**Finance & Personnel Committee:**

Committee Chair Blair Milo moved for approval of an amendment for an addition of \$1902 due NIRPC from the State of Indiana's unclaimed property division to the communications budget; seconded by Jim Ton. Motion carried. Regarding the building lease, the commission received the cost comparison sheet which provides more detail of the locations. The Finance & Personnel Committee will meet on July 9 at 1:30 p.m. at NIRPC for final review before recommendation of site location to the NIRPC Commission at its July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting by a weighted vote.

**Environmental Management Policy Committee:** Kevin Breitzke reported that the next meeting is August 1 at 9 a.m.

**Transportation Policy Committee:** Stan Dobosz reported that the committee met on June 11, and has two actions for consideration. Resolution 13-12 would adopt the Transportation Alternatives Program and Surface Transportation Rankings for FY 2013. Jim Ton moved to adopt Resolution 13-12, seconded by Anthony Copeland; motion carried. Resolution 13-13 would adopt the Complete Streets Design Guidelines as amended. On a motion by Blair Milo, seconded by Nancy Adams; motion carried. An ITS Architecture workshop will be held on July 22. The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting is July 9 at 9 am.

**Land Use Committee:** Eman Ibrahim reported that the committee met on May 22. Updates included the Livable Centers Initiatives. \$400,000 was identified from STP Group 1 for two-year funding for the Creating Livable Centers program for downtown priority development areas. A presentation was given by the East Chicago redevelopment director on a program encouraging home ownership.

**Legislative Committee:** Tom McDermott said a meeting will be held in the summer to discuss strategies for 2014.

**Local Government Assistance:** Jeff Dekker reported that the Local Government Assistance Advisory Committee and Towns and Small Cities Committee will combine into one Local Government Advisory Committee. A good discussion was held with Ed Soliday and IACT in attendance. The next meeting is August 29 at 9:00 a.m.

**Northwest Indiana Economic Development District:** Roosevelt Allen reported he met with Ty Warner on April 19 and will meet with EDA in Chicago on June 28 along with Mr. Warner, Mark Maassel and Don Koliboski of the Northwest Indiana Forum. They will discuss the EDA's reluctance to accept applications for new district status which may affect procurement of a three- year operations grant. The District completed EDA requirements, and a planning grant was completed. On June 19, the EDD will have an accounting review; an audit is not required by the EDA. Several statewide districts do not have district status but have received EDA grants because their projects are part of the CEDS. Our CEDS has been approved by the EDA. Projects submitted by governmental units in our region include Gary planning grant for University Park, Purdue Calumet partnered with Hammond for a public works and

infrastructure grant and other project applications which are included in the CEDS. Technical planning and assistance grants can be submitted on the website.

**INDOT:** Robert Alderman described some of the internal changes at the department. The new section head is Angie Fegaras. Commissioner Cline has resigned. INDOT has projects with Crown Point and East Chicago. There were public meetings this week on the Illiana in Lowell and Peotone on the alignment. The public hearing will be in October. Next week an industry forum with potential investors will be held in Illinois at the Stevenson Conference Center in Rosemont. In answer to a question by Commissioner Allen about the use of Superior Construction being used for bridge work in Lake County, Mr. Alderman responded that all work is by low bid; Commissioner Allen will send the details to Mr. Alderman. The Riley Road bridge work is moving forward. Most of the contracts for the land exchange for the Cline Avenue Bridge will be completed this week and permitting for the Cline Avenue toll bridge should start soon. The toll would be about \$2.50 each way.

**Other Business:** None.

**Public Comment:**

- Jim Nowacki commented on the 12/20 at Broadway sidewalk conditions. INDOT responded that the high curbs were to deal with drainage issues.
- Renae Jackson asked about an apology requested from Roy Dominguez by Portage Mayor Snyder for having police officers at the May meeting. Dave Hollenbeck replied that Mayor Snyder already responded to Mr. Dominguez. Chairman Uran apologized if anyone was offended, and added that police are present at many meetings throughout the region.
- Teresa Torres described events from the May 23 meeting and asked that the minutes be changed to show that a resolution was passed to have an ad hoc meeting of the whole. Mayor Uran said the minutes stood as presented above.
- George Janiec commented that the public transportation situation has not changed over the years. Mayor Uran closed the public comment session.

**Announcements:**

- The IACT Summer Town Roundtable will be held in Hebron on July 9.

**Report of the Executive Director:** Ty Warner reported there was great bi-state cooperation between CMAP and NIRPC at the Calumet Summit last month. Everyone was impressed with the Marquette Park facility. The region had good coverage by Lake Shore Media. NIRPC sponsored Asthma Awareness Day at the Railcats Stadium. Mr. Warner also participated in the dedication of propane buses in the City of LaPorte. NIRPC also partnered with Ozinga's South Shore Clean Cities event earlier this week. The NARC Conference is next week. Clean Streets workshop is June 28 at Woodland Park. The Finance & Personnel Committee approved the closing of the NIRPC offices on Friday July 5. A planned power outage will take place later today; no Outlook until tomorrow morning. Bill Brown is retiring after 30 years of service. His last day is June 27.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by James Ton, Chairman Uran adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.