

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
July 19, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order - Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live.

Executive Board members present included Geof Benson, Diane Noll, Karen Freeman-Wilson, George Topoll, Anthony Copeland, Justin Kiel, Ed Soliday, Tom McDermott, Jim Ton, Mark Krentz and Greg Stinson.

Commissioners present included Jeannette Bapst, Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Christine Cid, Bill Emerson, Jr., Jane Jordan, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer and Mary Tanis.

Guests present included Susan Weber, Joyce Newland, Rick Powers, Justin Mount, Jim Nowacki, Tom Silich, Lyndsay Quist, Matt Deitchley, Ismail Attallah, Don Oliphant, David Wright, Terr Velligan, Laurie Keagle, Randy Strasser, Penelope Love, Val Gomez, Tim Zorn and Andrew Steele.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Daria Sztaba, Trey Wadsworth, Talaya Jones, Dominique Edwards, Charles Bradsky, Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, Candi Eklund, Lisa Todd, Gabrielle Biciunas, James Winters, Peter Kimball, Nick Vojvodich, Glen Wells and Mary Thorne.

Public Comment – Jim Nowacki, Gary resident, commented on the US Highway 12-20 and State Route 53 projects.

Minutes – On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the minutes of the April 19, 2018 Executive Board meeting were approved as presented.

Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner introduced NIRPC's newest staff members. The Marquette Greenway will connect Chicago, Illinois to New Buffalo, Michigan and an application for the BUILD grant will be submitted. A CBS video on the Marquette Greenway, interviewing Mitch Barloga, was shown. The State of Michigan raised \$500,000 for the project. The Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan was made available to Commissioners today and it is also on the website. The National Association of Regional Councils presented NIRPC with an award for the Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan at its conference, where Geof Benson was officially named President of NARC

Report of the Chair – Geof Benson also commented on the June NARC conference and also recognized Justin Kiel serving on the NARC Board. Geof Benson and Ty Warner joined a group arranged by the Mid-Ohio Regional Plan Commission to visit Hyperloop One's testing grounds in the Mojave Desert. A brief video on Hyperloop was shown. The Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor was selected by Hyperloop One as one of ten for further feasibility study in a global competition. The next NARC Board meeting will be held in Cleveland in October and the 2019 conference will be held in Omaha, NE.

Finance & Personnel Committee – George Topoll said the committee met this morning to review the financial status, reconciliation of expenses, and approve the claims register. Daria Sztaba explained three amendments recommended by the Finance & Personnel Committee needing action for environmental programs, utilities and Communication budget. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Karen Freeman-Wilson the Executive Board approved the budget amendments.

Lisa Todd explained two procurement recommendations for two replacement vehicles for LaPorte TransPorte in the amount of \$240,000 and a tree purchase for \$87,500. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Jim Ton the Executive Board approved the budget amendments.

Environmental Management Policy Committee – Bill Emerson, Jr. said the committee met in June hearing presentations on the Deep River Dam public comments and a summary of the Marquette Action Plan. Storms caused a lot of damage to the Kankakee River and there is concern at the local and federal level. Illinois is on board as well. EMPC will meet on September 6. Kevin Breitzke added that there is optimism for positive results for the Kankakee River damage.

Technical Planning Committee – Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met in May and July, hearing reports on the 2050 Plan development. The first round of public comments effected recommended vision statements and critical paths. The TPC offered a preliminary endorsement of these statements and paths.

Charles Bradsky summarized the 30-day public comment period on amendments 13 and 14 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. He overviewed Resolution 18-10, amendment 13 for four local projects. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board approved amendment 13. Charles Bradsky overviewed Resolution 18-11, amendment 14 for four INDOT projects. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second George Topoll, the Executive Board approved amendment 14.

James Winters explained that no comments were received during the 7-day public comment report on Amendment #15 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment is for GPTC projects funded under 5339 for bus and bus facility capital projects. These projects were in the previous TIP and needed to be added to the FY 2018-2021 TIP. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Commission voted to adopt Resolution 18-12, Amendment #15 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee is scheduled for August 14, 2018 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Indiana Department of Transportation – Matt Deitchley reported on the Community Crossings program, Trax, and said that I-65 work is on time and scheduled for completion in the fall. Ed Soliday commented that while the Community Crossings funding is closing for this year, the program will continue. Rick Powers said Lyndsay Quist was promoted and will join the Central Office of INDOT.

Certification Review – Susan Weber reported that NIRPC received several commendations for the Travel Demand forecasting, the updated functional classification system, the bike and ped plan. She noted her excitement for the BUILD grant application which identifies regional and interstate cooperation in a project. The corrective action was for public involvement and engagement and making it more meaningful. NIRPC was certified to continue to receive federal funding. Ty Warner added that NIRPC has objected to the corrective action as unwarranted but has no issue with what the corrective action asks NIRPC to do.

Announcements

- Bob Carnahan said the Northwest Indiana Symphony will hold a free concert in Cedar Lake Saturday at 7:30 either outdoors or at Hanover High School.
- Dave Shafer thanked INDOT and Rep. Soliday on behalf of the Town of Munster for their help with the railroad for getting the grade separation at Calumet and 45th Avenue. He also thanked the Lake County Surveyor for his involvement with the Lake County Drainage Board for the Hart Ditch becoming a regulated ditch.
- Mary Tanis said the Legislative Committee will meet in September, date to be announced. The Communitrees grant projects are due August 1.
- Ty Warner re-emphasized that the TPC endorsed preliminary endorsement of the 2050 Plan matrix found on the last page of the packet and asked the Commission to be familiar with these vision and focus statements, as they will form the basis of the 2050 Plan development. Kevin Breitzke added that the plan will come before the commission for adoption next year, but comments are welcomed at any time.
- Geof Benson said NIRPC may be consolidating meetings in order to make better use of time and create a better flow.

- Susan Weber directed attention to the formation of an Outreach Committee in the NIRPC committee structure and Warner indicated this would be discussed further in the meeting with FHWA and FTA.

Adjournment – Hearing no other business, on a motion by George Topoll and a second by Diane Noll, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:00 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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