

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, July, 17, 2014 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
  
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Harley Snyder, Ed Glover, Jeff Good, Bill Joiner, and Tom Dabertin. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
  
- III. **General Public Comment:** *None*
  
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** B. Joiner motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
  - a. **Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 17, 2014:** **Approved**
  - b. **Reports, MWBE Quarterly Expenditure Compliance:** **Approved**
  - c. **Reports, Buy Indiana Quarterly Report and Annual Measures:** **Approved**
  - d. **Matching Funds, NIRPC/RDA Partnership: Marquette Plan Update:** **Approved**
  
- V. **Special: 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Summary of Milestones and RDA Strategic Direction:** B. Hanna highlighted the RDA's progress to date and milestones.
  
- VI. **Actions on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force:**
  - a. **Recommendations:**
    - i. **Funding Request: Valparaiso Transit Oriented Development:** Mayor Jon Costas reported that the City of Valparaiso submitted a funding application to the RDA to support future transit oriented development by expanding the Chicago Dash bus system. This project will include critical infrastructure to provide major connection points to unincorporated Porter County. Mayor Costas stressed the importance of a new transit center; existing facilities are at capacity.
 

Chris Murphy with American Structurepoint, gave a power point presentation on the details of the project.

C. Murphy's asked the Board to accept the project for further consideration for future funding. The City needs to finalize the details of Phase 1 construction in the final grant application.

B.Joiner motioned to accept for further review the City of Valparaiso's TOD proposal contingent upon redefinition of the scope of the project and further RDA staff review with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
  
    - ii. **Funding Request: South Lake County Community Service:** B. Hanna reported that SLCCS submitted a funding request to the RDA for a 20% cash match to support a bus service for South Lake County; while, federal funding will support the other 80% of the cost of the service (approximately \$1.3M). This will assist with projects outlined in NIRPC's Transportation Improvement Program.
 

R. Niemeyer stated that the current operation serves five townships in the southern part of the county, and had expanded services northward into the communities of Griffith and Hobart after the RBA shut down two years ago.

Frank Mrvan, Jr. stressed the importance of a regional bus transportation system. Ridership has gone from 10,000-40,000 rides. Currently SLCCS is working with Prompt medical to provide a dispatch center to be able to cut costs.

H. Snyder motioned to approve the request to fund 20% of the costs outlined in NIRPC's Transportation Improvement Program and over the course of three years, with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- iii. **Report- NICTD/RDA Strategic Plan (Ratification)**: D. Fesko reported that on June 9 the RDA staff requested and received support via electronic communication for RDA Board adoption of the joint RDA/NICTD Strategic Plan. This document incorporates the West Lake Corridor expansion project, as well as improvements to the existing line that will boost efficiency, reliability and safety.

D. Fesko requested formal RDA Board adoption of the joint RDA/NICTD Strategic Business Plan.

B.Joiner motioned for plan approval, with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- iv. **Audit: RDA 2013 Internal Control Audit**: S. Ziller reported that the RDA has received the audit report from the internal control audit. This audit tests the effectiveness of the RDA's internal financial controls. The report indicated the RDA maintained effective control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 and the RDA is pleased to announce that there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified in the report.

S. Ziller requested Board approval of London-Witte's 2013 audit report.

B.Joiner motioned to adopt the report with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- v. **Grant Modification: GCIA Runway Extension Project**: B. Hanna reported that the RDA is going to take the remaining money on the current RDA grant to the airport in the approximate amount of \$7.2 million and allow for it to be transferred into an escrow account. Upon the request, the RDA incorporated the assistance and counsel of Bill Sheldrake and David Hollenbeck to review the Airport's finances and legal documents associated with the request. The RDA remains committed to the Gary Chicago International Airport and continues to be directly involved in the project by routinely meeting with Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and Interim Director, Br Lane weekly.

B.Hanna requested approval of the grant balance transfer into an escrow account to allow CSX to complete their relocation.

D. Hollenbeck stated that from a legal perspective he finds no impediments for accommodating the request.

B.Joiner motioned to approve the grant modification with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- vi. **Contracts: City of East Chicago Grant Agreement:** D. Hollenbeck presented the completed grant agreement for the City of East Chicago shoreline project, in the amount of \$17.495M, to the Board for acceptance and approval.

J. Good motioned to approve the agreement with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- vii. **Contracts: MonoSol (Ratification):** D. Hollenbeck presented the completed grant agreement for MonoSol, in the amount of \$1.575M to support the creation of 150 new jobs (by 2020) at MonoSol's Portage, Indiana location.

J. Good motioned to approve the ratification with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- viii. **Contracts: AM Manufacturing:** D. Hollenbeck reported that the RDA will fund \$400k to support the creation of 40 new jobs (by 2016) at AM Manufacturing's Munster, Indiana location.

J. Good motioned to approve the request with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- ix. **Contracts: Modern Forge:** D. Hollenbeck reported that the RDA will fund \$200k to support the creation of 240 new jobs (by 2016) at Modern Forge's Merrillville, Indiana location.

J. Good motioned to approve the request with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- x. **Contracts: McMahon and Associates:** D. Fesko requested Board approval for the renewal of McMahon and Associates contract for a period of two years for an amount not to exceed \$11,725.00.

B.Joiner motioned to approve the renewal of the contract with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- xi. **Policies: Employee Handbook and Quality Manual:** S. Ziller reported that ODS completed their review of the RDA employee handbook and quality manual and most of the recommendations were editorial. Significant changes included the addition of three sections: arrests/conviction, customer service, and job duties and responsibilities.

S. Ziller asked the Board to approve the RDA's employee handbook and quality manual contingent upon legal review and sign off.

B.Joiner motioned to approve the request with a second by J. Good. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

VII. **Project Status Review:**

a. **Surface Transportation:**

- i. **Update:** None

b. **Shoreline Redevelopment:**

i. **Update:** *None*

c. **Expansion of the Gary Airport:**

i. **Update:** Interim Director, BR Lane gave an extensive update on the Airport. Stating that the airport is working on making significant changes with the project team by setting a direction and a vision not just for the organization, but for the overall project.

Dan Vicari, Executive Director of the Gary Sanitary District, gave a report on the environmental challenges facing the Airport.

d. **Economic Development:**

i. **Update:** *None*

a. **RDA Operations:** S. Ziller reported that the RDA, through its communications department, is working on the following:

- a. **RDA's Annual report** - due by August 30, 2014
- b. **Revamping of the RDA's Transformation website** - expected completion date is October 31, 2014.
- c. **Creation of Brownfield's website** - expected to be completed by September 2013

S. Ziller reported that as these initiatives develop, the RDA will share updates and the final project outcomes with the Board.

S. Ziller also reported that the RDA has contracted with ODS to perform focus groups in the form of online surveys. Those results and conclusions should be submitted to the RDA by September for review.

S. Ziller gave an update on the feasibility studies stating that the RDA is working with KSM, the consultant chosen to conduct the feasibility studies on a Trauma Center and Academic Medical Center in northwestern Indiana. Currently, KSM is developing their recommendations, scenarios, and conclusions. They plan to issue a draft report at the end of the month, with the final report expected for completion by August 30, 2014.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

i. **Update:** *None*

IX. **New Business:**

i. **Other:** *None*

X. **2013 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

XI. **General Public Comment:** *None*

**XII. Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin*