



- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, March 9, 2017 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Bill Joiner, Christopher Campbell, Milton Reed, Thomas Golab, Phil Taillon and Randy Palmateer. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** K. Davidson voiced his concerns regarding the RDA's public records requests and the transparency of the RDA. K. Davidson also indicated that all contracts over \$50,000.00 need to be posted online on the RDA's website.

P. Eanes, a Munster resident, voiced her concerns regarding Representative Hal Slager's HB1144. Her questions were:

1. How much money is the RDA planning on issuing in the bonds if the legislative goes through? Is it going to be both for the train and the TOD's?
2. How many bonds will be issued?
3. Is there going to be one bond for each TOD area? Or is it going to be one bond for the whole project?

- IV. **Consent Agenda:** R. Palmateer motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by T. Golab. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- a. **Minutes: Board Meeting of December 15, 2016:** *Approved*
- b. **Contract: (Ratification) Bingham Greenebaum Doll, LLP, Legal Services, Analysis of RDA's Existing Statute** *Approved*

- V. **Indiana General Assembly 2017 Legislative Update:** B. Hanna updated the Board on the current progress being made with the Indiana General Assembly. B. Hanna stated that HB1144 has passed the House and is on its way to the Senate. The bill is designed to be a compliment to the Capital portions of the West Lake and the Double-Tracking projects. They are both attempting to identify and make available new dollars without raising taxes to be reinvested into zones in which they are collected for development of the TOD projects. The revenue within these zones is not transferable, in a sense that the same value collected has to be reinvested in the footprint from which it's taken from. The RDA will be working in collaboration under the current scenario with the communities to identify what the TOD's will look like and what pieces need to be funded. In short, HB1144 is a development tool that will help enhance and accelerate development around the station areas.

- VI. **Actions on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force:**

- a. **Recommendations:**

- i. **Contracts: NICTD, West Lake, Final Environmental Impact Statement:** S. Ziller reported that the RDA Governing Board approved a resolution on August 18, 2016 resolving that the RDA has committed to provide funding to NICTD as it enters into the Project Development phase that is up to \$20M for the West Lake Corridor project. S. Ziller stated that the funding will be primarily used for completion of all Project Development work, a significant amount of engineering, and preparation to submit West Lake for a rating by the FTA by August 2017.

S. Ziller reported that legal has prepared a grant agreement between the RDA and NICTD and is seeking approval from the Board to approve the grant agreement between RDA and NICTD for West Lake, Final Environmental Impact Statement for \$20M as presented.



B. Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by C. Campbell. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- ii. **Contracts: NICTD, Double-Tracking, Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Assessment:** S. Ziller reported The RDA Governing Board approved funding in the amount of \$1.6M on April 21, 2016 to support NICTD entering into a contract with HDR Engineering to perform the preliminary engineering and environmental analysis for double-tracking the South Shore line necessary to seek Core Capacity funding from the Federal Department of Transportation.

The overall project cost is \$4M and the breakdown of funding is as follows:

\$1,600,000 for Lake and Porter Counties through the RDA
\$800,000 for St. Joseph County through the Northern Indiana Cities RDA
\$800,000 from LaPorte County and Michigan City
\$800,000 from NICTD

S. Ziller asked the Board for approval of the grant agreement between the RDA and NICTD for Double-Tracking, Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Assessment for \$1.6M as presented.

M. Reed motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- iii. **Procurement: ODS, Review and Update on RDA Employee Handbook:** S. Ziller reported that Organizational Development Solutions will update the RDA handbook with current information that reflects both the industry standards and regulatory compliance. The process will include research and comparison of RDA handbook with State and additional quasi-governmental organizations as well to develop policy recommendations in an amount not to exceed \$4,950.

S. Ziller asked the Board to approve the procurement of Organizational Development Solutions for the RDA employee handbook review and update for \$4,950 as presented.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by C. Campbell. 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:** None

d. Economic Development:



i. **Update:** *None*

e. **RDA Operations:**

i. **Update:** *None*

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

i. **Update:** *None*

IX. **New Business:**

i. **Update:** *None*

X. **2017 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

XI. **General Public Comment:** J. Nowacki voiced his concerns regarding the Miller bus station and the “triple double-tracking” plan.

K. Davidson voiced his concern on HB1144. He also urged the Board to communicate with the public more.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amy L Jakubin