

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2008 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Howard Cohen, and Gus Olympidis. Six members were present constituting a quorum.

III. **Consent Agenda:** B. Joiner moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor of the motion and the consent agenda was approved.

- a. **Minutes of the Board Meeting of 10/1/2008:** **Approved**
- b. **Minutes of the Airport W.G. Meeting of 10/09/2008:** **Approved**
- c. **Minutes of the Shoreline W.G. Meeting of 11/5/2008:** **Approved**
- d. **Treasurer's Report:** **Approved**
- e. **Consultants Report:** **Approved**
- f. **Executive Directors Report:** **Approved**
- g. **Chairman's Report:** **Approved**

IV. **MBE/WBE Report to the Board:** Tammi Davis provided the RDA Board with the minority compliance report of November 1, 2008. The purpose of this document is to provide applicants, grantees and other stakeholders with both guidance and clarification relative to the attainment of compliance with meeting the MBE/WBE goals established by the RDA enabling statute, IC36-7.5-2.

T. Davis recommended that the grantees provide an MBE/WBE participation plan. The RDA Board does have the authority to not grant funds if there is no willingness to comply, with the option to discontinue further funding. The previous grantees that have completed their projects have little to no opportunity to comply with the RDA guidelines because monies have already been expended. With the City of Whiting and the City of East Chicago however, there is a huge opportunity to raise compliance.

Dave Hollenbeck and Gordon White drafted a memorandum for RDA implementation of MBE/WBE goals. The legal counsel will examine the Buy Indiana component and distribute a memo to the Board.

L. Morris suggested a two step process by requesting the legal counsel to review and provide recommendations for final adoption of T. Davis document. They will deal with the Buy Indiana as a separate issue.

B. Joiner moved to receive T. Davis' document and consider it at the next Board meeting, with a second by H. Snyder.

The reasons for B. Joiner's motion to receive the report was because he wanted the opportunity to revisit and address the dollars that have been expended to date, and also address action plans by those respective communities. B. Joiner will meet with T. Davis to discuss these issues and hopes for refinement of this document before final adoption.

All were in favor of receiving the report.

In respect to remedial action, H. Cohen suggested that where there is an issue of non-compliance the Board should have specific discussions about specific situations.

H. Snyder will oppose any punitive action after the fact of non-compliance. The RDA Board as the grantor should be held accountable, not the grantees.

V. **Special Order of Business:**

- a. **Strategic Plan:** Bill Sheldrake reported that the Comprehensive Strategic Plan Update is complete. This report addresses where the RDA stand's today. This is an update, based on the submissions on the various

targeted investments, bringing the RDA into the present. The RDA has demonstrated success, and has expended 70 million dollars to the four targeted investments. With the most recent success being the Portage Park project. However, with additional requests and the updating of the Marquette Plan, it has exasperated the lack of funding, and additional towns and cities have been included in that plan. By 2016 there is a 300 million dollar deficient if the RDA was to fund everything. However, the Strategic update briefly addresses several strategies in working with that issue.

B. Joiner motioned to receive and adopt the Comprehensive Strategic Plan, with a second by H. Snyder.

G. Olympidis requested a footnote clarifying the train going to the City of Valparaiso.

B. Joiner and H. Snyder accepted G. Olympidis' request as an amendment to the original motion.

All were in favor of the amended motion and the Comprehensive Strategic Plan was approved.

VI. Action from Board: No action was taken.

VII. Project Status Review:

- a. **Work Plan Review:** T. Sanders reported that he has created a work plan outlining the projects the RDA is currently engaged in. This document will be updated every meeting, and is for informational purposes. This is not intended to be a total report to the Board or inclusive of everything that may have gone on.
- b. **Regional Bus Authority:** L. Martinez reported that Board members have met with the RBA in early October to discuss funding issues. T. Sanders reported that there have been ongoing conversations with Central Indiana Regional Transportation personnel.
- c. **Lake Shore Redevelopment:** B. Joiner reported that the Shoreline Working Group met to discuss two separate requests. The requests are from the Town of Burns Harbor for a bike trail, and the City of East Chicago for the demolition of their water filtration plant.

The Town of Burns Harbor originally requested \$100,000 as 1:1 match to an Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant. The Town of Burns Harbor is seeking RDA funding to conduct comprehensive town planning and trail connector due diligence at a total project cost of \$200,000. The revised and amended Burns Harbor application requested funding in the amount of \$50,000 to support only due diligence of the Marquette Greenway Trail and local feeders.

The City of East Chicago is requesting \$1.98 million for the demolition of the cities water filtration plant. This project will be running concurrent with the construction of the new water filtration plant thru 2011 with two phases. The complete demolition can not occur until the new water filtration plant is up and running. This will open up access to the lakefront.

The Shoreline Working Group has suggested that both projects get a WMB/MBE action plan with the compliance officer.

B. Joiner moved to approve the grant of \$50,000 for the due diligence of the Marquette Greenway Trail contingent upon an acceptable MBE/WBE action plan with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor of the motion and the Town of Burns Harbor amended application for financial support was approved contingent upon an acceptable MBE/WBE action plan.

B. Joiner moved to approve the grant of \$1.98 million for the demolition of the water filtration plant contingent upon an acceptable MBE/WBE action plan with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor of

the motion and the City of East Chicago's application for financial support was approved contingent upon an acceptable MBE/WBE action plan.

- d. **Expansion of the Gary/Chicago Airport:** G. Olympidis requested that Matt Reardon, Airport consultant to the RDA report on his activities with the Gary Chicago International Airport. M. Reardon reported that public release of SEH's report is forthcoming for public viewing.
- d. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder reported that the railcars final assembly of the cars began in August, 2008.

H. Snyder reported that the Portage Lakefront Park has received a membership for the Society of Innovators at Ivy Tech. This project is also in the running for the grand prize for team innovations.

VIII. **Other Business:**

- a. **RFP Banking Audit:** At the cost of \$11,800 the Banking Committee recommended to hire Joe Krnich & Associates, P.C. for the Independent Audit Services for the Regional Bus Authority. B. Joiner offered a motion to approve that recommendation with a second by H. Cohen.

The RDA is receiving the cost of the audit from the RBA's last draw. This is to be included in the motion, approved by B. Joiner and H. Cohen. The RDA will advise by letter to the RBA that they will assume fiscal responsibility for the audit.

All were in favor of the revised motion and the motion was approved.

- b. **VEDC Withdrawal of Application:** T. Sanders reported that the Valparaiso Economic Development Corporation has withdrawn their request for financial support from the RDA at this time.
- c. **Attorney Response to MBE/WBE Legal Clarification:** Refer to MBE/WBE report to the Board.
- d. **Marquette Vision Summit Recommendation:** L. Morris reported a summary of the series of meetings beginning in June of the meetings that have occurred in these forums. This is in support of the Marquette Vision. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- e. **Public Transit Summit Recommendations:** L. Morris reported that there have been a series of meetings regarding public transit. Involved in those meetings have been the RBA, NICTD, NIRPC, Forum, and members of the RDA Board. These meetings were intended to make certain that the RDA is working as collaboratively as possible to make transit in northwest Indiana as strong as it can be. Two recommendations have come from those meetings for consideration from the RDA Board.

- i. **First Motion:** In view of the importance of public bus services to the residents of northwest Indiana and the increasing difficulty of the cities of East Chicago, Gary and Hammond to fund them, and with the concurrence of the Mayors of those cities, the RDA hereby recommends to the Board of Directors of the Regional Bus Authority that the RBA move forward immediately with negotiations to become the universal provider of fixed route bus services in Lake County no later than June 30, 2009, thereby helping to avoid disruption of these vital services. Further, the RDA recommends to the RBA that it develop a plan to work with existing demand response service providers toward the goal of becoming the provider of those services in Lake County and all public bus services in Porter County as expeditiously as practical. L. Morris placed that motion before the Board for their consideration with a second by G. Olympidis. After some discussion, all were in favor and the motion was approved.

- ii. **Second Motion:** To help assure the adequacy and accuracy of data on which to base planning and recommended actions to preserve the availability of public bus service in northwest Indiana, the Regional Development Authority will authorize payment of up to \$30,000 to fund an impartial review and update of the 2006 TransSystems Bus Service Study no later than December 15, 2008. L. Morris placed that motion before the Board for their consideration with a second by L. Martinez.

B. Joiner offered an amendment to the motion for the cost to be underwritten by the Regional Bus Authority with a second by G. Olympidis.

H. Cohen expressed reservations regarding the RDA setting the terms. He felt that it would be more appropriate if it was determined by the RBA. He understands that the RBA needs the RDA's support and maybe needs additional funds to accomplish that as it may not be in their budgets. But the RDA, to determine what planning needs to be done and the planning that is needed should be a decision the RBA makes not the RDA. H. Cohen understands the timing issues but would feel more comfortable with a planning document brought forth by the RBA; as the Board is operating without a formal request.

Vote on the motion as amended:

H. Cohen	no
B. Joiner	yes
L. Morris	no
H. Snyder	no
L. Martinez	no
G. Olympidis	yes

The amendment to the original motion was not supported.

Vote on the original motion:

H. Cohen	abstained
B. Joiner	abstained
L. Morris	yes
H. Snyder	yes
L. Martinez	yes
G. Olympidis	yes

The original motion was not supported.

H. Snyder stated that this is what we need in order to gain support for the public funding that we are attempting to get permanent funding for the RBA in northwest Indiana. H. Snyder asked his fellow Board members to reconsider their position.

After some discussion H. Cohen called for reconsideration of the motion with a second by H. Snyder.

Vote to reconsider the original motion:

H. Cohen	yes
B. Joiner	yes
L. Morris	yes
H. Snyder	yes
L. Martinez	yes
G. Olympidis	yes

The vote to reconsider the original motion passed.

After some discussion the Board voted on the original motion.

Vote on original motion:

H. Cohen	yes
B. Joiner	abstained
L. Morris	yes
H. Snyder	yes
L. Martinez	yes
G. Olympidis	yes

The original motion after being reconsidered passed.

- f. **Banking Relationships:*** The RDA has received 11 responses from the request for RFP Banking Services. B. Joiner is the Chairman of that committee and we have established a meeting to examine those documents. That group will have something prepared for the next meeting.
- g. **Board Planning Calendar:*** T. Sanders offered a calendar to the Board of future Board meeting dates for CY 2009. This is for Board review. T. Sanders recommended changing the date of February 17, 2009 to February 18, 2009.
- h. **Budget Planning:*** T. Sanders reported that the Board has a proposed budget that has been reviewed by the budget committee with the proposed changes submitted. B. Joiner offered a motion to approve the budget as submitted to the Board. There is a position included in there that could possibly relate to the Marquette plan that has not yet been approved by the Board, but the committee had decided to add it to the budget. With a second by H. Cohen, all were in favor of the motion and the budget was approved.
- i. **Other:*** none.

IX. New Business:

*a. **Other:***

T. Sanders reported that Dennis Hodges of High Speed Rail has submitted an application for financial support to the RDA. However, D. Hodges after hearing new information has requested that the application be postponed.

T. Sanders also stated that the Board has received a letter from Senator Mrvan regarding the Little Calumet audit.

T. Brown reported that the RBA has submitted their compliance report to T. Davis.

X. Public Comment: No comment.

XI. Adjournment: Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on November 17, 2008