

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 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:** H. Cohen noted a correction in Attachment B, minutes of the MBE/WBE Working Group Meeting of February 2, 2009. There was a typographical error on the second page, first paragraph, second to last line. A period should be inserted at the end of “H. Snyder”, and capitalize “all”.

H. Cohen stated that it is important that the RDA work with the constituent groups to be sure that the revenue stream remains as specified. In light of the funding difficulties of some, it is important that the RDA work closely with them. H. Cohen also stated that the RDA is currently in a good cash position, and the Treasurer’s Reports are accurate.

B. Joiner moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by L. Martinez. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

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| a. <b><u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 1/08/09:</u></b>                 | <b>Approved</b>  |
| b. <b><u>Minutes of the MBE/WBE W.G. Meeting of 2/2/09: A</u></b>         | <b>Approved</b>  |
| c. <b><u>Minutes of the Audit/Accounting W.G. Meeting of 2/12/09:</u></b> | <b>Approved</b>  |
| d. <b><u>Treasurer’s Report – October, 2008:</u></b>                      | <b>Approved</b>  |
| e. <b><u>Treasurer’s Report – November, 2008:</u></b>                     | <b>Approved</b>  |
| f. <b><u>Treasurer’s Report – December, 2008:</u></b>                     | <b>Approved</b>  |
| g. <b><u>Treasurer’s Report – January, 2008:</u></b>                      | <b>Approved</b>  |
| h. <b><u>Consultants Report:</u></b>                                      | <b>Approved</b>  |
| i. <b><u>Minority Compliance Report:</u></b>                              | <b>NO REPORT</b> |
| j. <b><u>Chairman’s Report:</u></b>                                       | <b>Approved</b>  |

IV. **Action from Board:**

- a. **Accounting Services:** B. Joiner stated that two firms submitted proposals to the RDA for accounting services. Based on the lowest bid, B. Joiner moved to retain McMahon & Associates for accounting services; however, they are not to exceed \$7,200.00 a year. The motion was seconded by L. Martinez. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.
- b. **Audit Services:** B. Joiner stated that three firms submitted proposals to the RDA for auditing services. Based on the lowest bid, B. Joiner moved to hire Whittaker & Company to do the RDA’s annual audit at \$8,650.00; however, if at any point they determine that the expense will increase it will immediately be brought to the Executive Director’s attention. The motion was seconded by H. Cohen. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

V. **Project Status Review:**

- a. **Work Plan Review:** The status of each of the working groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in this document.
- b. **Regional Bus Authority:** L. Martinez reported that meetings between NICTD and the RBA to discuss public transportation are ongoing.
- c. **Lake Shore Redevelopment:** No report.

- d. **Expansion of the Gary/Chicago Airport:** G. Olympidis reported that the first SEH report is being delivered to the Board, and will be under review. The comprehensive report is expected to be available at the March 17, 2009 Board meeting.
- e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder reported that the RDA is diligently working with NICTD and the RBA through Transportation Summits. The group is continuing to meet and work in an effort to achieve the most efficient economic transportations system for northwest Indiana.

**VI. Special Order of Business:**

- a. **Presentation by Earl Goode to Tim Sanders:** Earl Goode, Chief of Staff for Governor Daniels, presented the Distinguished Hoosier award to Tim Sanders for the fine job he has done since the inception of the RDA.
- b. **Presentation by the RDA Board to Tim Sanders:** L. Morris stated that Tim Sanders' role in the RDA has been extremely important. The RDA Board deeply appreciates the role he has played as the first Executive Director. The RDA Board wishes T. Sanders the very best in his new role with Purdue. T. Sanders was presented with an award for his exceptional services to the RDA.

**VII. Unfinished Business:**

- a. **MBE/WBE Compliance:** H. Cohen moved for approval of Attachment L in the Board meeting packet. H. Cohen also stated that the MBE/WBE Committee met on February 2, 2009, with legal council present. The Committee believed that the policy statement reconciles any differences the Board may have had previously on how this policy should be worded. This policy strongly affirms the RDA's commitment to 15% MBE and 5% WBE goals for those who have projects with the RDA. It identifies a process where those who may be out of compliance have the opportunity to come back into compliance. It also suggests that there are penalties for those who do not come into compliance. G. Olympidis seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

L. Morris read a letter from Representative Charlie Brown that reiterates the importance of implementation of the MBE/WBE compliance.

- b. **Little Calumet River Basin Project Funding:** B. Sheldrake reported that the Little Calumet River Basin Project will have a response to the RDA's letter within the next several weeks. This letter addressed four main issues: how funds are being used, repayment schedule, best estimated final cost for completion of the project, and the best estimated timeline for the completion of the project. B. Sheldrake also reported that to date, the Little Calumet River Basin Project has received approximately \$3.1 million from the RDA.
- c. **Recruitment of Executive Director:** L. Morris reported that the search for an Executive Director is moving along. Within the next two weeks, the Board will have reached a conclusion and make an announcement of the Executive Director.
- d. **Other:** D. Hollenbeck addressed the Buy-Indiana requirements, and the utilization of Indiana Businesses. The RDA is to utilize Indiana businesses to the extent consistent with the goals to developing the projects on time within the budgeted amount and in so far as possible, to utilize Indiana businesses for employees, goods, and services. This language is embedded in the same language as the MBE/WBE goals. His recommendation to the Board is that with this foundation of using the Indiana State Buy-Indiana template as the way to proceed, that the Board assign this matter to a Working Group and devise an RDA policy that would be consistent with the enabling statue, and as much as possible utilize the Buy-Indiana provisions that the governor's executive quarter implements along with the Department of Administration.

B. Joiner moved that Chairman Morris establish a Committee to discuss this issue. L. Martinez requested that the Committee that met to discuss the MBE/WBE Compliance also meet to discuss this program. B. Joiner accepted the change in motion with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

**VIII. New Business:**

- a. Compliance Consultants Proposals:** L. Morris indicated that the current contract with Tammi Davis of Compliance Consultants expires in March, 2009 and with the approval of the Board, he suggested the solicitation for proposals for compliance consultants. Without any objections, solicitation will begin.
- b. Applications Reviewed:** None.
- c. Shoreline Coordinator MOU:** Deferred until March 17, 2009 meeting. John Swanson with NIRPC did speak in favor of this MOU.
- d. Provision for Public Comment at RDA Meetings:** L. Morris re-evaluated the methods of public comments. Attachment M was drafted for this purpose.

H. Cohen preferred option B. L. Martinez preferred option C with option B. H. Cohen accepts that change. H. Cohen regarded this as an experiment, and should be more flexible.

L. Martinez moved to go with option C with option B as the methodology for experimental purposes with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

- e. Other:** None.

**IX. Public Comment:** A.J. Monroe commented on the Burns Harbor project.

**X. Future Meeting Planning:**

- a. 3/17/2009:** TBA
- b. 4/21/2009:** Portage Lakefront Park
- c. 5/19/2009:** City of Hammond

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on February 20, 2009