

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Special Session was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Carmen Fernandez and Peter Novak. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Public Comment:** *None.*
- IV. **Ratification of Meeting Items from January 26, 2010 Board Meeting:** B. Joiner moved to ratify all items from the January 26, 2010 Board meeting in aggregate with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of 11/17/2009 Approved
- 2. Minutes of the Working Group of the Whole of 1/13/2009 Approved
- 3. Treasurer's Report – December, 2009 Approved
- 4. Consultant Service's Report Approved
- 5. Executive Director's Report Approved
- 6. Chairman's Report Approved

Accept for Review:

- City of Whiting Shoreline Grant Application Approved
- City of Whiting Shoreline Loan Application Approved
- RBA UPS/PACE Grant Application Approved

- V. **Ratification of Meeting Items from February 23, 2010 Board Meeting:** H. Snyder moved to approve the consent agenda from the February 23, 2010 Board meeting with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Minutes of the Board Meeting of 1/26/2010 Approved
- 2. Treasurer's Report – January, 2010 Approved
- 3. Consultant Service's Report Approved
- 4. Sources and Uses Report Approved
- 5. Executive Director's Report Approved
- 6. Chairman's Report Approved

- VI. **Action on Recommendations from February 23, 2010 Board Meeting:**

City of Whiting Shoreline Grant Application: L. Morris reported that at the February 23, 2010 Working Group meeting the City of Whiting presented the grant application. Bill Hanna recommended approving the project not to exceed \$19,445 with the intent to make reductions where possible, administering the grant in a close-phased approach to provide more of an incentive to find leverage. Every 6 months the applicant will provide in its update to the Board an articulation of all efforts made to find new leverage. B. Hanna recommended to approve the full amount and have the RDA staff in partnership with the consultants at Policy Analytics enter into a process in order to develop a firm fiscal plan to come to the full Board at the next meeting.

B. Joiner moved to approve the grant application for the City of Whiting with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

City of Whiting Shoreline Loan Application: B. Hanna stated that the City of Whiting is in the position not to have to request the loan from the RDA. It will not damage the timeline or progress of the project.

RBA UPS/PACE Grant Application: L. Morris reported that the recommendation from the February 23rd Working Group meeting was to approve the RBA PACE/UPS application at \$60,000 per year for no longer than 2 years, subject to them first exploring the capital fund that currently exists and notify the RDA if successful. This is to fund the PACE bus route to Gary and East Chicago to the UPS facility that currently supports 100 jobs.

L. Martinez moved to approve the RBA UPS/PACE grant application with a second by C. Fernandez. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Adoption of Statement re: Funding of Transportation Operations: L. Morris reported that the RDA Board at the February 23, 2010 Board meeting supported the following statement:

“We serve as a gap fill for emergent situation in transit. The RDA was never intended to be the funder of transportation operations in perpetuity. Our goal is to work through the RBA and NICTD with our partners in transportation to build a consolidated transportation system that serves the vital needs of northwest Indiana and best positions the region for economic and social success. To that end, the RDA will not be in the position to fund transit operations beyond December, 2011. We stress the importance of maintaining focus on improving the collective system and identifying secure and efficient forms of long-term funding.”

B. Joiner moved to approve the above statement with a second by C. Fernandez. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

*For the record, each of the above action items was unanimously approved by the Board.

VII. Special Order of Business: Financial Presentation: The presentation was deferred. B. Sheldrake reported that they are close, and will be ready to present at the next Board meeting.

VIII. Public Comment: AJ Monroe reported that aspects of the Town of Porter are moving forward re: bridge enhancements and a bike trail will be built as apart of the bridges currently under construction.

T. Rongers reported that the Coastal Program is represented at the RDA meeting today, and can serve as a source match as a potential partner in shoreline funding.

IX. Adjournment: Without further business the Special Session was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Jillian Huber, March 11, 2010