

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. with John Clark presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Howard Cohen, Carmen Fernandez, Bill Joiner, John Clark, Gus Olympidis, and Lou Martinez. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** John Clark requested approval of minutes from the April 24, 2007 meeting. L. Martinez moved to accept the minutes with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor and the April 24, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** The RDA currently has \$38,765,449 deposited among three financial institutions in interest-bearing accounts. The report reflected activity through April 30, 2007. Updates on the revenue line included receipt of a second payment from Lake County (Hammond) and a partial payment from Porter County with the second half expected in June. The RDA received a payment from the State for the airport, however there should be additional funds forthcoming. Payment is expected from East Chicago on Thursday, May 24. H. Cohen reported to the Board that there are some collection issues to be aware of, which will require further discussion if serious lateness continues. This was mentioned as an alert, but not meant to cause alarm.
Direct Project expenses for April totaled \$18,305,515. Included were payments of \$17,500,000 to the South Shore, \$767,605 to the Gary/Chicago Airport, and \$37,500 to the bus study.
On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by L. Martinez, all were in favor and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
- V. **Report of Chair:**
J. Clark participated in the airport working group meeting held prior to the Board meeting on May 22, and he commended the efforts of all the working groups, expressing appreciation for their dedication and hard work.
On June 1, J. Clark plans to represent the State, along with Congressman Visclosky, on a panel responding to the Vital Center: A Federal-State Compact to renew the Great Lakes region.
The Legislature completed budget discussions without any negative impact on the RDA.
- VI. **Future Meeting Dates:**
T. Sanders proposed a meeting schedule for the remainder of the year with meeting dates remaining the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. H. Cohen indicated that he would be out of town for the July meeting and unable to attend the December meeting due to the Purdue University Calumet Commencement. J. Clark expressed support for continuing to meet at the current pace, however welcomed opinions from the Board regarding the necessity of a monthly meeting. H. Cohen felt it was important to keep the meetings as scheduled, however if there are slow times with no pending business matters a meeting could be canceled. In light of the scheduling conflicts expressed, B. Joiner recommended that no formal action take place to approve the proposed meeting dates. T. Sanders requested to be e-mailed with any additional concerns or changes regarding the schedule.
J. Clark directed a question to the General Counsel about changes in the General Assembly that relate to the Open Meeting Laws. Attorney Dave Hollenbeck explained two changes; one that confirms the preclusion of allowing telephonic participation for voting or quorum, and a law prohibiting small, private groups constituting less than a quorum meeting for decision making purposes intended for a public meeting.
- VII. **Investment Working Group**
B. Joiner advised that an addition was needed to the investment working group meeting minutes included in the agenda packets. Paragraph five currently reads *Further, it is expected that the RDA Board of Directors will receive an annual presentation from Scannell Wealth Management at an RDA Board Meeting.* There will also be monthly and quarterly updates regarding the performance of the investments, in addition to the annual presentation.
Three companies were considered to provide investment services to the RDA. Given the scope of what needs to be done, the working group is recommending Scannell Wealth Management. Scannell, located

in Valparaiso, has approximately five associates with aggregate experience of 16-17 years. The projected cost for services is \$20,000, with some additional expense expected. On behalf of the working group, B. Joiner recommended that the RDA retain Scannell Wealth Management with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor and the motion to retain Scannell Wealth Management was approved.

VIII. Bonding Options

T. Sanders reported that he investigated the process of selling bonds for major projects in case the need may arise. There are some hurdles to overcome, however he feels it is a relatively easy process and a viable option for the RDA. For informational purposes, a memo further detailing the process and identifying potential problems was included in the agenda packet.

IX. Project Planning Report:

a. Regional Bus Authority:

The RBA working group chaired by L. Martinez met with the Regional Bus authority on Friday, May 18, 2007. At their previous meeting on Friday, April 6, 2007, the RBA was asked to meet with municipalities to discuss the consolidation of bus services, bus system designs, and movement from a regional perspective to a universal perspective. The RBA reported that they had good starting points for where they want to head. The RDA working group will receive a proposal from the RBA at their next meeting (yet to be defined) on becoming the Sole Regional Federal State Recipient, which requires the Governor's signature. They are looking toward being the single dispatch system, as well as designing new local and regional routes which would likely result in common buses, fare boxes, and dispatch systems. This will help get the ball rolling in further conversations with municipalities about universal operations, consolidation, and coordination. The working group will receive a proposal in June, which they will advance through the sub-committee and bring back to the whole body.

b. South Shore:

Things are moving along well with the contract to build new double-decker rail cars. The South Shore promised to provide monthly progress reports to the RDA. T. Sanders indicated that the project is a much needed expenditure as South Shore ridership continues to grow.

c. Gary/Chicago Airport:

G. Olympidis reported on what he thought was a very positive and useful working group meeting held earlier in the day. During the meeting, reports were given by Vince Galbiati from the Northwest Indiana Forum and Chris Curry from the airport.

V. Galbiati has been working with all the involved parties to bring about a solution in the rail debate, which is critical for ultimate resolution of the issue. Reports will be due to the working group within 30-60 days regarding engineering and construction activities.

C. Curry spoke to the group about the overall development of the airport, including an update on environmental issues and obstacles that need to be managed. No problems are foreseen that will hinder planned development. C. Curry and Tom Easterly have a meeting Wednesday, May 23, and a timeline outlining environmental actions will be created and submitted to the RDA.

d. Marquette Plan:

▪ **South Shore Lakefront Redevelopment Plan – Gary/East Chicago Joint Application**

The amended South Shore Lakefront Redevelopment Plan Grant Funding Agreement was offered by T. Sanders for questions. The original grant approval amount was changed from \$1.75 million to \$1.15 million as approved during last month's RDA meeting on April 24, 2007.

It is a standard agreement that previously received approval from the Board.

▪ **Portage Northshore Park Plan**

The Environmental Assessment for the park was submitted on May 15th for a 30-day comment period. There will be a public hearing on the EA May 30, from 4:00-7:00 p.m at the Portage Yacht Club.

The National Park Service Development Advisory Board is meeting June 19-21 in Henderson, Nevada. The Board must approve any development within the boundaries of National Parks around the country. Final engineering will be completed upon approval and construction will begin early in 2008.

IX. Executive Director's Report:

T. Sanders spoke about "The Vital Center" meeting sponsored by the Quality of Life Council on June 1. The meeting will be held at the Radisson in Merrillville at 8:30 a.m. Additional details were provided in an executive summary from the Brookings Institution included in the agenda packets.

T. Sanders reported that the general public may begin hearing about MetJet, an airline interested in bringing air service to the Gary/Chicago Airport. Information on MetJet can be obtained from their website at www.metjet.net. Since the Gary/Chicago Airport receives federal funding, they can not refuse to allow an airline to operate if they meet all of the FAA requirements and federal safety standards.

Additional information was made available to the Board in the agenda packets regarding the cancellation of SkyValue's flights to Mesa.

The Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a membership luncheon on May 23, at which T. Sanders and J. Clark will be speaking. The luncheon will be held at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond at 11:30 a.m.

T. Sanders advised the Board about the Chanute Award for Team Innovation, recently created by the Society of Innovators to recognize a team of people who contribute to the quality of life in northwest Indiana through creative innovation.

T. Sanders requested that a working group be formed to gather information on 21st Century Systems, Inc. (21 CSI), a communications system that will allow greater freight movement and transport through technology. Bob Wichlinski spoke to the Board about TRACS, 21 CSI's transportation routing and control systems project funded by the Federal Highway Administration and focused on integrated corridor management. He said there has been a ground swell of support for the project, including interest from Congressman Visclosky and Senator Lugar. He would like to have the opportunity to further discuss TRACS with a working group to explain the benefits of the system and explore funding mechanisms. J. Clark agreed and there was consensus among the Board that a working group should be formed to learn more about TRACS.

T. Sanders reported that an RFQ was issued for general consulting services, pertaining to areas such as the airport, environmental matters, and financial issues. RFQs are due at the end of May, and T. Sanders asked G. Olympidis to lead a working group to gather and evaluate the information received.

T. Sanders announced that Sherri Shabaz again received straight A's on her latest grade report – congratulations!

X. Public Comment:

Jim Nowaki had previous concerns with the bid process for the Gary Jet Center, however he commended the center for their decision and felt there was a positive outcome. He also urged the RDA to keep a close eye on airport activity.

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

The next RDA Board meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2007. Location and time TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Murphy on May 24, 2007.