

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez Bill Joiner, Ed Glover, Peter Novak and Jeff Good. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Public Comment:** T. Torres commended the RDA for the acknowledgement and respect given to their audience and would encourage them to expect the same from those in which they award funds to.

Rev. Rivera with the Northwest Indiana Federation stated that they have been fighting for regional equity since 199 through social, racial, environmental, and economic justice through community sustainability. Rev. Rivera is committed that there is no community left behind.

Rev. Garner, president of the Northwest Indiana Federation presented the RDA Board with the job coalition framework for pursuing job justice, economic and social equity through the RDA projects. Rev. Garner stated that the NWI Federation see's improved quality of life for residents of northwest Indiana through a benefits agreement for all RDA funded projects. He stated that the local preference ordinance puts the RDA in conflict with its stated mission. The Regional Community Benefits agreement was provided to all RDA Board Members.

- IV. **Consent Agenda:** P. Novak moved for approval of the consent agenda with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 17, 2011:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the W.G. Meeting of May 17, 2011:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Consultant Services Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Executive Director's Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |
| f. <u>Minority Compliance Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |

- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**

a. **Addendum to the Gary Airport Grant Application:** B. Hanna stated that the RDA has approved funding for the Gary Chicago International Airport expansion project in the amount of \$30 million. The RDA has engaged L&B in looking at the Airport's business plan. The plan has been helpful. They would like to consider bringing L&B on to aid in technical assistance and future planning. B. Hanna would like approval from the Board to include this amount in the grant, acknowledging that there is room for up to 2% if needed. B. Hanna has requested an amendment to the current Gary Airport grant agreement for the engagement of L&B for technical assistance and future planning.

B.Joiner moved for approval of the request with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- VI. **Project Status Review:** The status of each of the Working Groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in the work plan review. B. Hanna reported that the RDA is working with Policy Analytics to update the strategic plan for the coming year.

- a. **Public Comment:** None
- b. **Regional Bus Authority:**

- i. **Public Comment:** T. Torres voiced her concern on the RDA's provision of funding to the RBA contingent upon compliance of the Consent Decree. She stated that the Consent Decree has not been met. T. Torres asked that the RDA respond to her query's and provide her with what happens going forward.
- ii. **Update:** T. Brown provided the following updates:
 1. Increase in ridership
 2. Standards for CMAQ funds
 3. Fixed route systems

T. Brown stated that with the distributions of the CMAQ funds the RBA is receiving a little over a million dollars to preserve the red/green route. CMAQ is used for two primary purposes that of which include expansion and restoration projects. These funds have been eliminated, therefore they have not been able to use CMAQ dollars. What they are able to do is use CMAQ funds for operating purposes. A public hearing was held on July 15, 2011 to discuss the elimination of the brown route. In the meeting the pink route was also a concern as its ridership numbers have decreased.

c. **Shoreline Redevelopment:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *None*
- ii. **Update:** B. Joiner provided the following updates:
 1. Hammond Lakes Area; project is on schedule and is in compliance with the M/WBE reporting requirements
 2. Whiting Lakefront; moving along well
 3. Marquette Park; continues to move forward with \$25 million remaining in funds
 4. East Chicago Family Housing/New Water Filtration Plant; East Chicago ensures that progress is being made for the 2nd phase of housing development as well as the new water filtration plant.
 5. Town of Porter; projects are running on schedule, and designs have been completed
 6. Valparaiso; projects are advancing and moving along schedule as well

L. Martinez reported that the overall maintenance of Marquette Park is being well taken care of and is seeing improvements.

d. **Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:**

- i. **Public Comment:** Rev. Garnier stated that there is no discussion on how the Gary Chicago International Airport project benefits the community. He questioned the man hours being paid, who is running the machines, community involvement, and who is taking measures to assure that local hiring is taking place. Every project that is funded by the RDA should be recorded and a percentage of those workers should come from within the communities of northwest Indiana.

T. Torres stated that if the RDA is serious about regional development the agency must provide authentic opportunities to those within the communities and to the residents within northwest Indiana. We are pleased to have conversations with the Board members, and they have been very cooperative. We need to address these communities who are the most in need. Facts need to be available to the public before the runway is completed. We want to know who is being hired and who is benefiting from the millions of dollars being brought in.

Rev. Rivera asked if the RDA could involve the communities more to benefits these projects.

Pastor David Brown, of East Chicago, asked if we can get a solution to the hiring problem. Facts and considerations need to be available for the public. We can work together and bring about a peaceful solution to those who are in despair. Let us find it within our hearts to recognize northwest Indiana and to make a change for the better within the community.

Chester Jones asked the members of the RDA Board to address how they feel about the communities that are benefiting from these projects. He believed crime will trickle over into other communities.

- ii. **Update:** L. Morris reported that the members of the joint working group are currently meeting twice a month to discuss the completion of the Gary Chicago International Airport runway expansion. GYY and the RDA are using L&B to provide technical support to make sure that all business developments have been addressed well before the completion of the runway.

Steve Landry stated that many projects and design phases are starting to take place, and everything is well on track. He then introduced Scott Wheeler, who is the project manager for AECOM.

S. Wheeler reported that the first phase of the runway expansion contracts have been released for bid that are currently out for bid are as follows:

- seven bids for the EJ&E Bridges- \$6.4 million
- **four bids for the consolidating Rolland Dump- \$2.6 million**
- construction project of the two bridges were advertised for bid
- industrial highway road overpass over the EJ&J and CSX tracks
- staffing the new electrical facility- on schedule to be released this fall
- shifting the EJ&E tracks, west near Cline Ave, which will run parallel to the CSX tracks, north of Chicago Ave, this will initiate the construction on the runway, which can't be completed until tracks are switched over
- moving the threshold approximately 900 feet due to the proximity of the runaway

S. Landry reported that a final project is underway which is associated with the navigational equipment that channels incoming weather reports. This will help pilots who are approaching the runway land safely. The equipment must be moved in order to accommodate construction on the runway. This will be regulated by the FAA in 2013.

e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:**

i. **Public Comment:** *None*

- ii. **Update:** H. Snyder reported that he has met with Mayors and representatives regarding the extension through Dyer. He has spoken with them about possible funding from their communities. The RDA continues to work with NICTD.

G. Hanas stated that the communities have favorably received the report regarding the current technical issues, time delays and funding of the extension. They are enthusiastic about the economic development taking place.

f. **RDA Administrative:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *None*
- ii. **Update:** B. Hanna reported that currently 97% of RDA dollars go to projects, which is an important principle of the RDA. In regards to Rev. Garnier's request, site visits are being implemented. S. Ziller and T. Rogers are currently involved with carrying out those requests. The RDA is also making efforts to improve their communication through website development and maintenance. Contacts, project databases, press releases, fact sheets, as well as blogging are currently being worked on. Followers will be able to have a better understanding of all efforts that are being put forth by the RDA.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Public Comment:** *None*
- b. **Employment Data Pilot:** D. Rosetti reported that the grantees continue to work on putting together data collection that will go to the Board for review. This document is a work in progress and ODS expects a good start by next quarter.

Rev. Garnier suggested the RDA go a step further and devise a plan in which man hours are going to the most disparaged communities in our region.

- c. **Buy Indiana/NWI Policy:** B. Hanna reported that Buy Indiana/NWI is a program designed to push the grantees to give advantage to residents of northwest Indiana.

L. Morris suggested we require, as part of the grant application, that the grantees must organize and outline their strategies for ensuring they do business with northwest Indiana firms. Grantees should report their progress during and after projects.

T. Torres, in reference to the Regional Community Benefits Agreement, stated that while this is a good policy it does not fully address all of the concerns that we have for the disparaged communities. With that said, T. Torres asked if a date can be scheduled to have a meeting with the key members of the Board to propose a formal agreement to this policy.

L. Morris stated that the RDA will work towards meeting that objective.

Rev. Rivera suggested that before awarding funds the RDA should first check to see if there is a fair hiring practice.

L. Morris moved for approval of the request with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- d. **Cline Ave:** T. Torres' understanding is that the Federation has always been in favor of the same footprint of Cline Ave. She also understands the physical restraints, and financial aspects of the bridge.

B.Hanna stated that since the last meeting, a casino has recently offered additional funding to replace the bridge. The RDA has been involved to figure out how we can best serve the purpose of having the bridge replaced. There are investments in and around the area, the Gary Chicago International Airport being the largest. Currently, the RDA is putting together data to support the needs to rebuild the bridge.

L. Morris stated that on behalf of the RDA, we want to express our concerns and willingness to the Governor in finding ways to make sure we can provide the advantages of Cline Avenue to northwest Indiana.

- e.* **Porter County Litigation:** B. Hanna reported that the Indiana Supreme Court has denied the transfer of Porter County to be removed from the RDA. Well over six months ago the RDA began conversations with county officials and the commissioner's office looking for opportunities to partner with and benefit the residents of Porter County. This has been the RDA's main focus.
- f.* **Other:** L. Morris responded to the request made by T. Torres for a proposed schedule to meet with the key Board members. The request is in process for final review and T. Torres can count on a response from the RDA by the end of the week.

VIII. New Business:

- a.* **Public Comment:** *None*
- b.* **Other:** *None*

IX. 2011/2012 Future Meeting Planning: The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Group meetings are reflected in the planning calendar.

- a.* **Public Comment:** *None*
- b.* **Working Group and Board Meeting August 23, 2011:** *TBA*
- c.* **Working Group Meeting, September 20, 2011:** *TBA*

X. General Public Comment: Rev. Garnier appreciated the conversations being brought forward by the RDA, and believed that the RDA can create hope. However, he stated that we cannot let these opportunities pass before us. Let us make sure that we take the next step to provide those who are from the most disparaged communities get a ticket on that train of opportunity.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin