

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Howard Cohen and Carmen Fernandez. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The timetable for MBE/WBE Compliance will begin again in October, 2009. B. Joiner moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by H. Snyder. All were in favor, and the consent agenda was approved.
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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 7/21/09:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the Working Group of the Whole of 9/10/2009:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Treasurer's Report – August, 2009:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>July and August Consultants Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>MBE/WBE Compliance Update:</u> | No Update |
| f. <u>Executive Directors Report:</u> | Approved |
| g. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**
- a. **Public Comment:** None.
- b. **Equal Employment Opportunity/Sexual Harassment Policy:** B. Hanna asked for the approval of these policies, inclusive of changes suggested at the previous Working Group meeting. D. Hollenbeck stated that both policies have been reviewed and approved at the working group level, adding an additional bullet for email regarding sexual harassment. B. Joiner moved to approve the Equal Employment Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Policy. The motion was seconded by L. Martinez. All were in favor of the motion, and it was approved.
- c. **Authorization to Adjust Little Calumet River Basin Loan Agreement:** B. Hanna stated that the Little Calumet River Basin Commission needed to alter their loan agreement to allow the allocation of funds in the amount of \$250,000 for operational costs, which was outlined in the original grant agreement as a violation. D. Hollenbeck stated that the request was extremely time sensitive. The grant agreement has been ratified for Board approval. H. Snyder moved for ratification of the Little Calumet River Basin grant agreement. The motion was seconded by B. Joiner. All were in favor of the motion, and it was approved.
- VI. **RDA Fiscal Update:** The RDA Board asked Policy Analytic's to present a fiscal update, and special review of the RDA's financial situation. Policy Analytics presented the RDA's current financial position, compare the current financial position with the RDA's Comprehensive Strategic Plan, and they presented options for expanding the RDA's financial reach. In addition, Bill Sheldrake of Policy Analytic's discussed the following:
- a. RDA, Development Tasks
 - i. RDA Mission
 - ii. Statutory Measurement/Ratio of Available Matching Funds
 - b. RDA, Financial Position
 - i. Revenue Received
 - ii. Project Development
 - iii. Total Development Expenditures
 - c. Strategic Questions Raised

- d. RDA Spending per the Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- e. Comprehensive Strategic Plan Investment Pattern vs. Actual
- f. Leverage Ratio for RDA Projects
 - i. Bonding
 - ii. Grants
 - iii. Public Private Partnerships (P3)

H. Snyder stated that the economic impact will be seen over the next 40 years; if our region does not do these projects today, the impact will never be seen.

B. Joiner applauded the efforts of Policy Analytics. He stated that it was a concise presentation, which identified issues and options, and appreciated the simplicity. He also applauded the Chairman for allowing an open environment for discussion.

H. Cohen thanked Policy Analytics and believed the discussion was a good perception of managing the priorities.

H. Snyder stated that this is an important tool for Board use, and applauded the work of Policy Analytics.

L. Morris expressed appreciation for this important Board tool.

VII. Other Business:

a. **Public Comment:** None.

b. **Other:** L. Morris presented the Public Transit Dilemma in Lake, Porter, La Porter and St. Joseph Counties. This is regarding the very important decision about public transit services with the referendum placed before the residents of northwest Indiana by the Indiana General Assembly. This document frames a six point recommendation to the RDA Board:

- i. Express strong concern about the sustainability of existing public transit services in Lake and Porter Counties if significant changes are not made in the planning, organizing, funding and operation of these services.
- ii. Seek to enhance public awareness of the consequences if existing services fail and must be shut down (e.g., loss of federal funding, forced liquidation of equipment and other assets) as well as loss of services to the public.
- iii. Acknowledge that there are significant areas of concern about the legislation enacted to create a public transportation authority.
- iv. Offer assistance in identifying and rectifying those areas of concern.
- v. Recommend that if the elections are held, the residents of Lake and Porter County vote “yes” on the referendum regarding the creation of a public transportation authority.
- vi. Regardless of the outcome of the current vote, develop a coalition of local government officials, transportation leaders and members of the General Assembly to prepare legislative proposals to address areas of concern in the legislation that provided for the creation of the Public Transportation District.

T. Torres asked that organizations work with the real stakeholders, because to lead people is to walk beside them. There is no means for the public to be directly involved in the process.

Roll Call Vote on the Motion:

Carmen Fernandez	Yes
Howard Cohen	Yes
Bill Joiner	Yes
Leigh Morris	Yes
Harley Snyder	Yes
Lou Martinez	Yes

VIII. Future Meeting Planning:

a. **10/27/2009:** TBA

b. **11/17/2009:** Purdue Technology Center, Crown Point

IX. General Public Comment: B. Joiner offered a motion in appreciation of Chancellor Cohen for his services rendered during his tenure with the Board. With a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor of the motion and it was approved.

Dennis Hodges suggested that the P3 be looked at further.

Harold Puckett with the Gary MBOC expressed his appreciation to Bill Hanna and the RDA for their efforts to work collaboratively with the Gary MBOC at a roundtable discussion that proved to be very productive.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on September 25, 2009