

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with John Clark presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Howard Cohen, Bill Joiner, Carmen Fernandez, John Clark, Harley Snyder, Gus Olympidis and Lou Martinez. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** John Clark requested approval of minutes from the May 22, 2007 meeting. H. Cohen moved to accept the minutes with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the May 22, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** The RDA currently has \$40,376,467 deposited among three financial institutions in interest-bearing accounts. The report reflected activity through May 2007. As of April 30, all of the contributors have paid except for the city of Gary. The city of Gary has indicated that they will pay the RDA by July 2007 and will be able to pay the July 31, 2007 amount also. The state of Indiana has paid its quarterly payment of \$2.5 million on June 18. There has been discussion with the State Budget Agency of how the RDA should do its reporting. The Treasurer's Report now contains a budget column. It is missing a budget item for professional expenses but will be filled in shortly. This budget will serve as a guide for RDA expenditures.  
On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by C. Fernandez, all were in favor and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
- V. **Report of Chair:** J. Clark was called back to his job in Indianapolis. There was no report from the Chair. Vice Chairman Gus Olympidis chaired the meeting at J. Clark's request after J. Clark's departure. The agenda was adjusted so the Regional Bus Authority followed the Chairman's report so J. Clark could participate in the vote.
- VI. **Report of Investment Group:**  
A meeting has been scheduled on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Purdue University Conference Center at 10:00 a.m. to meet with the RDA's investment consultant, Tim Scannell to discuss the next steps in RDA investments.
- VII. **MBE/WBE Tracking Document**  
On June 21, T. Sanders met with Claudia Cummings with the Indiana Department of Administration. She recommended that the RDA work with local companies to track MBE/WBE involvement in RDA funded projects. T. Sanders offered a tracking document used by Indiana Stadium and Convention Authority as a guide for the RDA. The document reflects how the Stadium Authority monitors their contractors and subcontractors for minority participation and compliance.
- VIII. **Project Planning Report:**
  - a. **Regional Bus Authority:**  
Over the course of the last couple of months, the RDA has been meeting with the RBA about putting a regional system together. The RBA has officially put in an application for funding to the RDA dated June 12, 2007. The RBA is requesting interim funding for two years in order to demonstrate the value of the RBA to existing and potential customers, taxpayers and funding authorities. It is the RBA's intent to become a regional operating organization, to develop a regional focus and to initiate improved transportation services in Lake and Porter (and possible LaPorte) counties. Over the two-year period, the RBA will initial regional investment in bus and demand response public transportation vehicles, support systems and infrastructure. The RBA will achieve the reforms through managing the match funding required for Federal Transit Administration capital grants. The federal grants will cover 80% of project costs. The RBA would assume the roles of grant administration and oversight of bus and demand response projects. The RBA will also develop and implement a regional customer information and real-time service management and control center. With this center, existing and new public transportation customers will have readily available information and assistance with services offered in the region. The interim funding request is \$6.5 million total, \$2.9 million for 2008 and \$3.6 million for 2009. The RBA working group supports the request as well as NIRPC. NIRPC has promised to work in close coordination with the RBA.

L. Martinez moved to fund the RBA \$6.5 million with a second by H. Snyder. H. Snyder does support this request but every other successful mass transit system that he is aware of receives a lot of public subsidy and the RDA for long term funding is not that vehicle. It becomes incumbent upon the RBA to demonstrate that need to our local and county public officials so the RBA can finally receive the kind of support that they are going to need long term in order to make their mission successful. The RBA fully understands that the RDA is not in the business of long term funding for the RBA.

T. Sanders asked co-counsel Gordon White to work with the attorney for the RBA to create a grant agreement. Gordon White complied.

**b. South Shore:**

The South Shore submitted a quarterly progress report for the first quarter of 2007. This project is the first phase of the purchase of fourteen (14) multiple unit controlled, electrically propelled railcars. On October 9, 2006, NICTD released an Invitation for Bids for the 14 rail cars. Bids were due on November 28, 2006, and on February 23, 2007, the NICTD Board awarded the contract to Sumitomo Corporation of America. On March 23, 2007, the contract with Sumitomo was signed in the amount of \$47,558,000 for fourteen electric, self-propelled gallery style multiple unit controlled commuter rail cars. Actual work on this activity is still 0% complete as of the end of the first quarter of 2007. Work is expected to begin early in the second quarter of 2007.

T. Sanders has asked NICTD to keep submitting quarterly progress reports to the Federal Government.

**c. Gary/Chicago Airport:**

Chairman Clark wrote a letter to the president of the Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority, Pastor Marion Johnson on June 7. It is the intention of the RDA to continue the reimbursement process that has been established beyond June 30, 2007 to allow the orderly expenditure of the remaining funds (approximately \$14 million) allocated to the airport by the 2006 General Assembly. The Gary-Chicago Airport is a vital part of the RDA's comprehensive development plan that was required by the General Assembly and approved earlier this year by the Administration following the State Budget Committee's review. It was clearly the intent of the General Assembly that the RDA oversees this important expenditure and we intend to honor that commitment.

The letter has not been directly responded to. However, the Airport has suggested 2 things with the remaining balance of the Major Moves money that is currently held by the RDA (roughly \$14 million). The Airport wants \$2 million to be placed into an escrow account to be used to help pay off bonds that the Airport intends to sell to extend the runway. The remaining balance would be put into an account for the use of NIPSCO to bury some high tension lines that are along Cline Avenue and the extreme west end of the Airport's property. NIPSCO wrote the Airport a letter indicating that they would need \$15 million in an account before they will begin work. There is not \$15 million left for the Airport from the RDA but the Airport still wants the balance the RDA owes them which is around \$12 million.

**d. Marquette Plan:**

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

The grant agreement has been signed and there is a meeting on June 28, 2007 with Bill Goldsmith and also the representatives from the cities of Gary and East Chicago to discuss the next steps in the shoreline project. B. Joiner requested a proposed agenda for the June 28 meeting. S. Shabaz will forward the agenda onto B. Joiner.

▪ **Portage Northshore Park Plan**

The city of Portage is meeting with the National Park Service to go over the plans for their final approval. They do not anticipate any problems. This is a very unique and collaborative effort heralded by the park service and is considered the wave of the future. The meeting will take place in Henderson, Nevada.

**IX. Executive Director's Report:**

The RFQ for a general consultant came back with 3 respondents. A working group consisting of the entire Board to be chaired by G. Olympidis was formed to evaluate their qualifications.

Regular meeting times will be established and the Board will be notified.

The Metropolitan Planning Council is having a meeting on July 12, 2007 on transit orient development.

T. Sanders plans on attending and welcomed the Board to contact the office if they would like to attend.

G. Olympidis thought it would be advantageous to schedule the Airport working group meeting and the newly formed general consulting working group meeting concurrently to minimize the travel time.

L. Martinez and H. Snyder reviewed funding proposals by 21CIS and the Indiana High Speed Rail Association and requested that a working group be formed.

**X. Public Comment:**

A member of the public asked who would control/account for the RBA money. The RBA will control the money but the RDA will provide some oversight.

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

The next RDA Board meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2007. Location and time TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Shabaz on June 21, 2007.