

I. Airport Working Group:

- a. Public Comment:** Jim Nowacki addressed the compact agreement between the City of Gary and the City of Chicago.
- b. Airport Briefing:** S. Landry discussed the following:
- i.** Norfolk Southern proposal in 2010 and their counter proposal to the Gary Airport in 2011. He stated that the negotiations are ongoing.
 - ii.** Runway extension is undergoing an FAA site survey. Process will be complete in 2012.
 - iii.** Overpass over Airport Road, 30% engineering is due in April, 2011.
 - iv.** RDA application for financial support.

L. Morris saluted S. Landry, his management team, and the Gary Airport Board for their efforts in helping the Gary/Chicago International Airport move forward.

- c. Other:** *None.*

II. RBA:

- a. Public Comment:** *None.*
- b. Update:** K. Dallmeyer reported that the RBA is currently working through consolidation issues.
- c. Other:** *None.*

III. NICTD:

- a. Public Comment:** *None.*
- b. Update:** H. Snyder reported that discussions between the RDA and NICTD are ongoing.
- c. Other:** *None.*

IV. Shoreline:

- a. Public Comment:** J. Nowacki commented on routes leading from the community into Marquette Park are only accessible from streets. He believed there should be safe and reasonable access to the citizens of Gary.

Robert Leonard commented on his concerns regarding the natural areas and the Oak Savannah Restoration.

Chris Meyers stated that the City of Gary is not opposed to sidewalks. The city wants to create a walkable sustainable community and is currently working on a plan to put sidewalks in place.

K. Brown discussed the following Shoreline updates:

- b. Shoreline Update:** K. Brown discussed the following:

1. Valparaiso/RDA Partnership, in collaborating with the City of Valparaiso, project partners, and private land owners, the RDA will support the design, allocation, installation, maintenance, and performance assessment of storm water best management practices and green infrastructure preservation opportunities.

2. Marquette Plan Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund, this project aims at the redevelopment of Brownfield's located within the Lake Michigan Watershed in Lake and Porter Counties. The RDA along with NIRPC will create the Marquette Area Brownfield Coalition.
 3. Marquette Catalytic Investment Projects, the RDA participated in HUD debriefing in preparation for the next round of Challenge/Tiger II funding.
 4. Cline Avenue, the RDA in partnership with the City of East Chicago and INDOT are working with the Urban Land Institute to explore the adaptive reuse of land impacted by the reconfigured Cline Avenue.
 5. Hammond, Phase I is substantially complete. Phase II of the project, which includes the Aquatic Pad/Playground is moving forward. The George Lake Pedestrian Bridge is currently under construction. In addition, the Memorial Park Demolition Project is underway.
 6. Whiting, the City is moving forward with Phase I; issuing bids in January, 2011. The City is currently undertaking the redevelopment of a 1,900 foot stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline along its 22 acre park. On September 30, 2010 the City requested Boating Infrastructure Grant TIER I funds to support design and engineering work. The City received State clearance and is currently awaiting receipt of the federal grant agreement. The total estimated project cost is \$133,000. The total grant away is \$100,000. \$33,000 of Phase I project costs will be used as an in-kind match.

B. Hanna reiterated that this is to cash-flow the project, and the RDA will be reimbursed by the federal government within a day or two.

P. Novak moved to approve the match with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor and the recommendation was approved. The recommendation will be forwarded to the full Board at the next Board meeting for ratification.
 7. East Chicago, the City is continuing to advance North Harbor Revitalization and its related lakefront redevelopment. A fifty six unit mid-rise senior citizen housing development will be under construction by late spring. In addition, the new Water Filtration Plant remains under construction and on schedule for a spring 2012 completion date.
 8. Gary, bids were received and are currently being reviewed for the Gary Marquette East shoreline project.
 9. Town of Porter, the year one projects are near completion. SEH is here to present and update to the RDA Board.
- c. **Town of Porter, Update:** AJ Monroe, G. Calpino and M. Reardon reported that the Town of Porter is wrapping up year one projects outlined in the Indiana 49 Gateway to the Indiana Dunes project. They discussed the following:
- i. Sub-Area Plan
 - ii. Feasibility Study
 - iii. Alternative Transportation Study
 - iv. Dunes Kankakee Trail
 - v. Indiana 40 Bridge Enhancements
- B. Joiner commended SEH for their great work in the region, and stated that this is the expectation of all dollars spent by the RDA.
- d. **Valparaiso PES Grant Presentation:**

Rod Ginter discussed the following:

- i. Ecosystem Stormwater Services
- ii. Landscape Alternation
- iii. Ecosystem Services Budget
- iv. Auction Goals
- v. BMP Auction Overview

e. **BIG Grant Cash Flow:** See above under Shoreline Update item 6.

V. Administrative Working Group Updates:

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

b. **Adoption of 2011 Workplan:** B. Hanna reported that the Workplan is laid out in priority order. The Board will be prepared to comment and adopt between her and the next Board meeting.

c. **Financial Audit, Update:** S. Ziller reported that the financial audit is currently underway. Whittaker & Company should be wrapping up within the next two weeks. A draft report is expected by the next Board meeting. The performance audit is set to begin on April 1, 2011 and will be performed by London Witte.

d. **Other:** *None.*

VI. Other Business:

a. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki spoke to the Marquette Park and stated that the RDA should cut their lose stating that the project has low impact and no leverage. He urged the RDA Board to look at the Marquette Park project critically.

R. Leonard commented on accessibility to the Marquette Park. He suggested that the Marquette Park is lacking and should be reflective of the Porter project.

C. Meyers stated that the Marquette Park has received the Burnham award for forward thinking.

b. **Other:** *None.*

VII. General Comment: *None.*

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on April 1, 2011.