1. **Shoreline:** 
   1. **Public Comment:** *None.*
   2. **Town of Porter Grant Application:** Michelle Bolinger with the Town of Porter thanked the RDA for considering the Town’s grant application, and reported that there are many exciting things going on in the town.

AJ Monroe reported that all requested information has been submitted to RDA staff. AJ Monroe explained that the Town of Porter submitted the “Gateway to the Indiana Dunes” Project to the RDA in April 2009. The application requested funds from the RDA totaling roughly $19.4 million. In November 2009, the RDA approved funding for year one projects outlined in the application totaling roughly $1.8 million. Phase I included:

* + - 1. Sub-Area Plan for IN 49
      2. Design and Construction, IN 49 bridges at US 20, US 12 and NICTD
      3. Alternative Transportation Study
      4. The Dunes Kankakee Trail
      5. IN 49 Engineer’s Feasibility Study

AJ Monroe reported that the above projects are nearly complete.

AJ Monroe stated that the application request before the RDA Board was for $3.915 million and includes several projects for consideration. Those projects include:

1. Dunes/Kankakee Trail (US 12 to US 20 segment) – project cost approx. $1.5 million
2. Dunes/Kankakee Trail (at Calumet Trail Spur) – project cost approx. $250,000
3. Calumet Trail Trailhead (at Dunes/Kankakee Trail Spur) – project cost approx. $250,000
4. Dunes/Kankakee Trail Link (to Dunes Park S.S. Station) – project cost approx. $350,000
5. Gateway Development Area (Engineering and Design) – project cost approx. $300,000
6. Dunes/Kankakee Trail (Land Acquisition) – project cost approx. $175,000
7. Dunes Kankakee Trail (Dunes Creek and Waverly Road Bridge) – project cost approx. $350,000
8. IN 49 Reconstruction Project (Oak Hill Road to US 12) – project cost approx. $740,000

AJ Monroe further discussed Operations and Maintenance, leveraging, land acquisition, public safety and the distribution schedule.

Matt Reardon with SEH discussed the following:

1. TIF District
2. Private Sector Investment
3. Future Opportunities

M. Reardon explained how the TIF district within the Town of Porter interacts with the investments of the RDA. He stated that the town garners approximately $1 million annually in TIF revenue. The town being good stewards of that money has matched it with CEDIT funds and has put in $5.1 million of new infrastructures in their town to address immediate concerns and future development.

B. Hanna stated that this is the RDA’s first Gateway project where we will have a chance to show how we can truly leverage the lakeshore beyond just the park aspect and create some direct commerce opportunities for the neighboring municipalities. B. Hanna recommended the Town of Porter application be forwarded to the Board for approval of the $3.915 million for this Phase recognizing that there is a balance left to be drawn from in the future of approximately $15 million.

Harley Snyder abstained himself from voting on the Town of Porter grant application because of property he currently owns adjacent to the project area.

J. Good moved for approval of the Town of Porter grant application in the amount of $3.915 million with a second by P. Novak.

All were in favor of the motion, with one abstention from Harley Snyder. The application was forwarded to the Board meeting for final approval.

* 1. **Other:** *None.*

1. **Airport:**
   1. **Public Comment:** *None.*
   2. **Gary Airport Grant Application**: L. Morris reported that a strong partnership has evolved between the RDA and Gary Chicago International Airport. The joint Airport working group made up of RDA and Airport Board members is systematically working through the plan and objectives to carry out these important initiatives. In the GRIP survey, the Gary Chicago International Airport was ranked the highest priority.

The consultant team for the Gary Chicago International Airport reported on the following:

* + - 1. Rail Relocation
      2. Runway Extension

The work schedule to begin this year will be the two railroad bridges carrying the EJ&E railroad over the existing Norfolk and Southern Gary branch, followed by the rest of the railroad down to the Indiana Toll Road, and the construction of the grade separation over the two railroad tracks. 2012 will begin the construction of the extended runway west of the embankment. 2013 will finish that up and the section of the embankment area.

L. Morris stated that planes will be seen by 2013.

L. Martinez stated that “more” planes will be seen by 2013.

H. Snyder asked AECOM to elaborate for the benefit of the public regarding the design and bidding process status.

AECOM reported that the deadline for the two bridges over Norfolk and Southern bid packages are due to be submitted by May 20th, then scheduled to put to bid on June 3rd with construction to follow in July, 2011. The work taking place in September 2011 is on schedule as well.

B. Joiner recommended approval of the Gary Airport grant application with a second by E. Glover.

All were in favor. The application was forwarded to the Board meeting for final approval.

* 1. **Other:** *None.*

1. **RBA:**
   1. **Public Comment:** *None.*
   2. **Update:** Tim Brown provided an update on the following items:
      1. Ridership; significant increases
      2. Legislature; bus funding
      3. Reduction Hearings
      4. Public Mass Transit Fund
      5. Reduction of Services

B.Hanna stated that the bus transportation issue for northwest Indiana has come to a crisis and it is not exclusive to the RBA. T. Brown stated that we will see the elimination of bus services happen slowly, and the impact will be great.

T. Brown stated that the RBA would need roughly $4.5 million to $7 million as the local match to maintain the demand route and fixed route systems. B. Hanna encouraged T. Brown to rally people around alternative options in figuring out how to salvage this crisis.

L. Morris stated that we cannot over emphasis how critical this is to our region. He saluted T. Brown and his staff for their accomplishments in putting together a functional and operational group, which has the capacity of meeting the RBA statute and current needs of the people of northwest Indiana.

H. Snyder stated that this is not just a Lake County issue, but also a Lake and Porter County issue.

* 1. **Other:** Jim Nowacki made a brief comparison between the need of bus services versus the Airport runway expansion proposal.

1. **NICTD:**
   1. **Public Comment:** *None.*
   2. **Update:** H. Snyder reported that efforts to work with the stakeholders continue in trying to determine next steps.
   3. **Other**: *None.*
2. **Administrative Working Group Updates:**
   1. **Public Comment:** *None.*
   2. **Performance Audit**: S. Ziller reported that the performance and financial audits are complete. The Board has been provided with both audit reports. The RDA is happy to report both audits are clean and insightful and will be used as a tool to improve internal controls.
   3. **Other:** *None.*
3. **Other Business:**
   1. **Public Comment:**
   2. **Workplan Review**: Specific objectives for this year and action steps are outlined in this internal RDA document.

B. Joiner recommended approval of the Workplan with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the Workplan will be forwarded to the Board meeting for final approval.

* 1. **Other:** *None.*

1. **General Comment:** Greg Calpino presented the RDA with an award for the Portage Lakefront Riverwalk from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

1. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on June 1, 2011.