

Minutes of the January 27, 2011, NIRPC Full Commission Meeting

Chairman Kathy Chroback called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney David Hollenbeck reviewed the Certification of Appointments for four new commissioners; Nancy Adams, Porter County Commissioner; Jeff Dekker, Dyer Town Councilman; Jim Murphy, Kouts Town Councilman; and Jim Polarek, Porter County Councilman. He said that the appointments complied with state law.

Kathy Chroback welcomed everyone and asked that self-introductions be made.

Commissioners present were Roosevelt Allen, Geof Benson, Michele Bollinger, Kevin Breitzke, Mary Brown, Bob Carnahan, Kathy Chroback, Christine Cid, Ken Collmar, Jeff Dekker, Stan Dobosz, Don Ensign, Michael Griffin, Tony Hendricks, Rosalie Jacobs, Eric Kurtz, Ken Layton, Richard Ludlow, Tom McDermott, Steve Millick, Stephen Mockler, Ed Morales, Rich Mrozinski, Jim Murphy, Chuck Oberlie, Anthony Pampalone, Shawn Pettit, Jim Polarek, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, Keith Soderquist, Joe Stahura, James Ton, David Uran, George Van Til, and Olga Velazquez.

Staff present included John Swanson, David Hollenbeck, Steve Strains, Bill Brown, Kathy Luther, Angie Hayes, Belinda Petroskey, Allen Hammond, David Gutowsky, Kelly Wenger, Jody Melton, Mitch Barloga, Joe Exl, Ryan Hicks, Gabrielle Biciunas, Tom Vander Woude, Mat Hay, Eman Ibrahim, and Kathy Dubie

Chuck Oberlie, representing the nominating committee, proposed the following slate of officers and executive board members:

Thomas McDermott, Jr.	Chairman
Geof Benson	Vice-Chairman
David Uran	Treasurer
Ken Layton	Secretary
Porter County:	
Olga Velazquez	
James Ton	
Lake County:	
Roosevelt Allen, Jr.	
Brian Snedecor	
La Porte County:	
Kathy Chroback	
Stephen Mockler	
Governor's Appointment	
Chet Dobis	

George Van Til and Shawn Pettit moved and seconded that the slate be accepted. Mr. Van Til added that he still thinks future nominating committees should work to balance municipal and county officials.

Kathy Chroback called for nominations from the floor. There being no other nominations, Chuck Oberlie moved that nominations be closed and the ballot be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Olga Velazquez and approved.

Kathy Chroback commented on the past year at NIRPC. She commended everyone, including John Swanson and the commissioners, for their cooperation and participation. She presented the gavel to new Chairman Thomas McDermott, Jr. Mayor McDermott said that Kathy had been an excellent Chairman. He presented her with a gavel plaque for her year of service.

On a motion by Michael Griffin, second by Stephen Mockler, the minutes of the December, 2010, meeting were approved.

On a motion by Shawn Pettit, second by Olga Velazquez, the consent agenda was approved.

Finance & Personnel Committee: Geof Benson, outgoing Treasurer, reported on three actions needed. A procurement recommendation for four vehicle replacements for the City of La Porte's TransPorte with the price not to exceed \$200,000.00, and the purchase of a bus shelter for the City of Valparaiso, with the price not to exceed \$40,000.00. There also is an proposed increase in an earlier procurement recommendation to purchase six fifteen passenger vans for the South Lake County Community Services with the price not to exceed \$180,000.00. Upon a motion by Geof Benson, second by Bob Carnahan, the procurement recommendations were approved.

There are two 2011 budget amendments needing Commission approval. The first 2011 budget amendment would add new grant funds to the 2011 budget. The funds of \$7,000 will be used to cover printing costs of a new bike map and an additional \$250,000 in funds from Federal Transit Administration would cover the transit component of the compressive regional plan.

The second 2011 budget amendment would transfer funds between staff salaries and ADA Transition Plan for contractual work on the Unified Planning Work Program project.

Finally, Geof Benson and Chuck Oberlie moved and seconded to extend the contract of America Speaks in the amount of \$80,055. George Van Til asked how much has been spent so far with America Speaks. Steve Strains said that, over the course of 2.5 years, \$380,000 has been spent. He added that the bulk of the plan is long-range transportation planning which NIRPC is required to do. The motion to extend the contract was approved.

Comprehensive Regional Plan Steering Committee: Vice-Chairman Kathy Chroback reported that the committee met on January 20 and the process is in the final stretch for adoption by NIRPC.

Transportation Policy Committee: Chairman Stan Dobosz reported that 43 project proposals have been received as part of the development of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. Bill Brown added that the review of these projects is beginning.

Mr. Dobosz asked Mitch Barloga to briefly explain Resolution 11-01, which would adopt the 2010 Ped and Pedal Plan. On a motion by Stan Dobosz, second by Dave Uran, the resolution was adopted.

INDOT: Angie Fegaras reported that the public hearing on the Cline Avenue Environmental Document will be held in East Chicago on February 10. She added that all bids on the Martin Luther King Bridge in Gary were rejected. In response to a question from George Van Til, Ms. Fegaras said that not rebuilding the bridge is not an option. Stan Dobosz added that visiting the site of the Hoosier Helpers is a great experience.

Northwest Indiana Economic Development District: Chairman Kathy Chroback reported that the election of 2011 Board officers was held at the District's last meeting. Don Koliboski added that there will be another call for projects in the spring. In response to a question from Shawn Pettit, Mr. Koliboski said that bidders will be contacted for updates.

Local Government Assistance Advisory Committee: Chairman Joe Stahura reported that the committee met on January 26 and will be meeting again on March 23 at 9:00 a.m. Safety policy manuals are being requested from all communities.

Legislative Committee: Chairman David Shafer said the committee met prior to today's commission meeting and is asking for action on two position statements. On a motion by Mr. Shafer, second by Stephen Mockler, the statements were accepted. Additional funding is being pursued. Regarding state legislation, H.B. 1367, 1366, and 1214 are of interest to NIRPC. George Van Til added 1574 and 1374 to the list of bills to be watching. Tom McDermott referred H.B. 1574 and 1374 to NIRPC's legislative committee for further consideration.

Brian Snedecor expressed his disappointment over the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission not being represented at today's meeting. Tom McDermott added comments and said he wants a "strongly-worded" letter sent to the Commission.

Other Business: Geof Benson announced that Tom Easterly will be speaking at the February 3 EMPC meeting.

Public Comment: Chairman McDermott asked all commissioners to complete their committee preference request forms and return them to staff.

Report of the Executive Director: John Swanson reminded the commissioners that Grants, Inc. has arranged with NIRPC to work with individual governmental entities regarding grant applications.

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Mr. Swanson presented Belinda with a certificate for her 35 years of service to NIRPC and announced that Judy Penn earned a certificate for her 15 years of service to NIRPC.

Kevin Breitzke moved for adjournment.