

Minutes of the December 8, 2011, NIRPC Full Commission Meeting

Chairman Tom McDermott, Jr. called the meeting to order. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present were Nancy Adams, Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Mary Brown, Bob Carnahan, Kathy Chroback, Jon Costas, Jeff Dekker, Chet Dobis, Stan Dobosz, Rosalie Jacobs, Ken Layton, Ron Lombard, Richard Ludlow, Tom McDermott, Jr., Steve Millick, Stephen Mockler, Philip Mores, Ed Morales, Rich Mrozinski, Jim Murphy, Chuck Oberlie, Shawn Pettit, Jim Polarek, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, Keith Soderquist, Joe Stahura, James Ton, George Van Til and Olga Velazquez. Staff present included John Swanson, David Hollenbeck, Bill Brown, Steve Strains, Tom Vander Woude, Bob Niezgodski, Eman Ibrahim, La Kisha Girder, Kathy Luther, Mary Thorne, Angie Hayes, Gabrielle Biciunas, John Smith, Allen Hammond, Hubert Morgan, Mitch Barloga, Stephen Sostaric, and Kathy Dubie.

Chairman's Report – Mayor Tom McDermott, Jr., drew attention to the Plan Summary for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, which was placed at each commissioner's seat. He added appreciation to Congressman Pete Visclosky for his strong and positive statement which is included in the summary.

He appointed Jim Tufford, to serve on the three-person Norman Tufford Committee. The committee will meet in early January with the possible inaugural awarding occurring at the January 19, 2012, commission meeting.

With several commissioners leaving office at the end of 2011, several committee vacancies will occur. Therefore, Mayor McDermott appointed Roosevelt Allen to the new Comprehensive Regional Plan Implementation Committee.

Finally, Mayor McDermott acknowledged the following commissioners who will be leaving NIRPC at the end of December: Mayor Kathy Chroback, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Mayor Olga Velazquez, Steve Millick, Stephen Mockler, Michele Bollinger, Eric Kurtz, Ron Lombard, and Susan Tochell. He expressed his appreciation to them and wished them well in their future endeavors.

On a motion by Shawn Pettit, second by Stephen Mockler, the October, 2011, minutes were approved.

On a motion by Jim Ton, second by Shawn Pettit, the consent agenda was approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee: Vice-Chair David Shafer reported that the committee met prior to the commission meeting and agreed that old signature plates will be destroyed. He said that the proposed 2012 budget is balanced. Adjustments in insurance coverage will be made. On a motion by David Shafer, second by Stephen Mockler, Resolution 11-26 (2012 Budget) was adopted.

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Environmental Management Policy Committee: Geof Benson provided a brief overview of environmental activities and a summary of the December 1 committee meeting.

Transportation Policy Committee: Chairman Stan Dobosz asked Bill Brown to explain Resolution 11-27, making the air quality conformity determination for the amended 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan and FY 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program with respect to ozone and fine particles. On a motion by Stan Dobosz, second by Shawn Pettit, the resolution was adopted. Bill Brown next provided an overview of Resolution –18, which would adopt the amended 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan for Northwestern Indiana, if approved. On a motion by Stan Dobosz, second by Shawn Pettit, the resolution was adopted.

Bill Brown explained Resolution 11-29, Amendment #5 to the 2012-15 Transportation Improvement Program for Lake, Porter, and La Porte counties. On a motion by Stan Dobosz, second by Shawn Pettit, the resolution was adopted. Finally, Bill Brown explained Resolution #6 to the 2012-15 Transportation Improvement Program for Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties. On a motion by Stan Dobosz, second by Shawn Pettit, the resolution was adopted.

Northwest Indiana Economic Development District: Chairman Kathy Chroback reported that the EDA grant is currently being processed. The next meeting of the NIEDD will be held on January 20, 2012 and will include the election of officers.

INDOT: Bob Zier, Mike McPhillips, and Angie Fegaras all spoke regarding current and pending work. The detour on Cline Avenue has been changed. Regarding progress on the Illiana, Angie Fegaras said that the deadlines for Tier I routes and the public hearing are the summer of 2012.

Report of the Executive Director: In addition to the written report included in the meeting packet, John Swanson presented certificates of employment to:

Mary Thorne	5 Years
Gail Parks	15 Years
Jody Melton	30 Years
John Smith	35 Years

Mr. Swanson said that NIRPC recently received an award from the FTA for achievement in excellence. Also, NIRPC staff, Steven Sostaric, is creating quarterly newsletters, and the first one was distributed at today's meeting.

On a motion by Shawn Pettit, second by Chet Dobis, the meeting was adjourned.