

NIRPC Executive Board/Full Commission Meeting  
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN  
January 16, 2014  
Minutes

Vice Chairman Brian Snedecor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Commissioners present included Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Geof Benson, Robert Carnahan, Tom Clouser, Anthony Copeland, Dave Decker, Jeff Decker, Stan Dobosz, Don Ensign, Michael Griffin, Richard Ludlow, Blair Milo, Rich Mrozinski, Rich Murphy, Lori Reno, Bob Schaefer, Tom Schmitt, Joe Simonetto, Brian Snedecor, Joe Stahura, Eldon Strong, and Jim Ton.

Others present included Bob Alderman, Dave Shafer, Rob Earnshaw, Carole Carlson, Skyler York, Craig Phillips, Shirley Patrick, Carol Guznicki, Rufus Durnell, David Wright, Renae Jackson, and Jim Nowacki.

Staff present included Ty Warner, David Hollenbeck, Steve Strains, Belinda Petroskey, Mitch Barloga, Gabrielle Biciunas, Scott Weber, Jack Eskin, Gary Evers, Kevin Garcia, Sarah Geinosky, Stephen Sostaric, Allen Hammond, Angie Hayes, Jody Melton and Mary Thorne.

**Certificate of Appointments:** Dave Hollenbeck announced that there was no quorum for a Full Commission meeting and business would be conducted by the Executive Board. Dave Hollenbeck explained that the Full Commission must meet quarterly according to NIRPC's enabling legislation to conduct certain orders of business. While a slate of officers was provided by the Nominating Committee, the election of officers must be made at a Full Commission and therefore will not take place today. As a point of clarity, Dave Hollenbeck said the February 20 Executive Board meeting may have to be designated as a Full Commission meeting. He added that state statute provides that members of the Commission remain as such until their appointing authority indicates otherwise in writing. Certification of Appointments to the NIRPC Commission were received for Eldon Strong from Lake County Council, Lori Reno from the Town of New Chicago, Ronald Stallings from the Town of Westville and Joseph Simonetto from the Town of Munster. Ty Warner invited the new Commissioners to the orientation session immediately after this meeting.

Brian Snedecor asked that any speakers wait for a microphone before speaking. Geof Benson said anything voted on will be done so only by the Executive Board members. Geof Benson added that until NIRPC receives an appointment certificate Bob Carnahan is still a Commissioner and invited him to sit at the table.

**Report of the Chair:** Brian Snedecor said that he wanted to be responsive to the Commissioners' time as well as that of the public and will start hearing public comments on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting so that comments may be heard before agenda items are voted on with all Commission members present.

Ty Warner presented Dave Shafer with the Norman E. Tufford award for his outstanding service not only as a 22-year NIRPC Commissioner and 2005 Chairman but also for his service as President as the National Association of Regional Councils. Dave Shafer said the work NIRPC does is important and benefits the region as a whole.

Geof Benson, Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee reported the slate of officers for the 2014 NIRPC Board as follows:

Chairman	Brian Snedecor
Vice-Chair	Blair Milo
Treasurer	Jim Ton
Secretary	Roosevelt Allen, Jr.

Executive Board Members:

Lake County	Anthony Copeland Tom Schmitt
La Porte County	Rich Murphy Dave Decker
Porter County	Don Ensign Nancy Adams

Governor's Appointment	Ed Soliday
Immediate Past Chair:	Dave Uran

The election will take place at the next Full Commission meeting.

Committee preference forms were provided to the Commissioners. Brian Snedecor asked that the members get their choices to Mary Thorne at the end of this meeting or before the next meeting. Ty Warner added that the Land Use Committee and the *Pathway to 2040* Implementation Committee may have some overlap. Brian Snedecor referred to the provided list of all 2014 NIRPC Committee meetings which will help in committee preference selections.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting were approved with the meeting location amended on a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Dave Decker.

**Finance & Personnel Committee:** Blair Milo reported that the committee met this morning. An agreement between NIRPC and South Shore Clean Cities to provide professional education and project management services shown on page 16 includes an attachment for five tasks in the scope of work for a diesel retrofit program in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Per recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee, Blair Milo motioned to adopt the South Shore Clean Cities contract as presented; seconded by Jim Ton. Motion carried. Blair Milo outlined Resolution 14-01, establishing policies to create a policy to have a Sergeant-at-Arms at NIRPC Commission meetings which will be provided by the City of Portage to ensure that participants and the public conduct themselves in a respectful and non-disruptive manner. The resolution also outlines public comment procedures, which include that public comments must be relevant to topics on the Commission meeting agenda, be limited to 2 to 3 minutes per person and a form will be required for registration of commenters prior to the meeting. Per recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee, Blair Milo motioned to adopt Resolution 14-01 to establish policies for Commission meetings; seconded by Dave Decker. Motion carried.

**Land Use Committee - Presentation:** Rich Murphy and Craig Phillips presented on the South Shore Realignment Study providing some background information and the plan for future transit-oriented development opportunities in downtown Michigan City.

**Pathway to 2040 Implementation Committee:** The minutes of the December 4 meeting were provided in the materials.

**Transportation Policy Committee:** Stan Dobosz reported on the January 14 meeting which heard a presentation from SEH about trail projects around Wolf Lane and the Indiana Dunes State Park.

Gary Evers described a letter from the Lake County Board of Commissioners, which was an off-cycle request to reallocate funds currently programmed for the reconstruction of Colfax Street from Main to 45th to the rehabilitation of Lake County Bridge 241, Kennedy Avenue over the Grand Calumet River with the balance to the Phase II reconstruction of 45th Ave., Whitcomb to Colfax.

Gary Evers described Resolution 14-02, the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program adding 16 added INDOT projects. On a motion by Roosevelt Allen, Jr. and a second by Don Ensign, the Executive Board approved Resolution 14-02.

Gary Evers described Resolution 14-03 Amendment #7 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for new local projects and phases for Hammond, Crown Point and the Kennedy Avenue Bridge project as described above in the funding letter from Lake County. The Colfax Project is deleted. On a motion by Roosevelt Allen, Jr. and a second by Dave Decker, the Executive Board approved Resolution 14-03.

Michael Griffin described Resolution 14-04 which supports reimbursement to local communities of costs for providing emergency services on the Illiana if it is built. Dave Decker moved to table this resolution to the next Full Commission meeting to allow Rep. Soliday to be present; seconded by Anthony Copeland. Motion carried.

**Indiana Department of Transportation:** Bob Alderman reported on the problems caused by the severe weather, including the pothole issues. Cline Avenue was closed to work on the potholes and work will be done on SR 312 in East Chicago and Broadway Avenue in Gary. Resurfacing work on Cline Avenue will start in April.

**Northwest Indiana Economic Development District:** Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD) continues to comply with requirements set forth by the Economic Development Administration in trying to attain development district status which would help more affluent communities in the three-county area to get funding from the EDA even though they do not meet a distressed community designation. The EDA has requested that the NWIEDD obtain resolutions from Lake, Porter and La Porte counties in support of the district. A letter from the Governor's office is pending. Another request is to reduce the size of the board. A meeting will be held later this month to address these issues. Once we get support letters from the three counties and the Governor, there should be no other requirements. Anyone wishing to serve on the District may contact Ty Warner.

**Other Business:**

Blair Milo expressed her appreciation for Dave Shafer's exemplary service as a NIRPC Commissioner and on the NARC Board.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Nowacki of Gary commented that he attends NIRPC meetings. He would like public comments to be held at the beginning and the end of the meetings to be able to comment on the agenda issues as discussed at the meeting. He inquired as to getting the agendas ahead of time.

Rena Jackson commented on the lawsuit and asked about the status of NIRPC's Public Participation Plan and the distribution of funds allocated for the Regional Bus Authority.

**Announcements:**

Bob Schaefer announced that the Local Government Assistance Committee is meeting on January 30. He invited more Commissioners to become involved.

**Report of the Executive Director:** In answer to the public comments, Ty Warner said the meeting agendas are posted on the website in advance of the meetings. The Public Participation Plan was tabled at the Transportation Policy Committee meeting. The Indiana formula-based Public Mass Transportation Funds which were allocated to the Regional Bus Authority are different than the federal funds. INDOT directed the 2013 funds to sub-operators and the 2014 funds to those with service in Hammond, which included fixed-route operators Gary Public Transportation Corp. and East Chicago Transit.

Upcoming public meetings on I-65 and Cline Avenue Bridge will be held on February 18 in Merrillville from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on February 19 in East Chicago from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Illiana Draft 2 EIS public meetings scheduled by INDOT will be held in Lowell on February 18 from 5 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ty Warner referenced the provided NIRPC Year in Review newsletter, adding that he has been at NIRPC for a year and thanked the NIRPC Commissioners for being a pleasure to work with. Since the last meeting, NIRPC received recertification from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration with only one corrective action on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). NIRPC received four commendations as a model of best practices for MPOs in Indiana for the 2040 Plan, trail development, environmental justice and ADA compliance. NIRPC also received news that its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012 qualifies for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. According to the GFOA, this is the "highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

Ty Warner reminded the Commissioners to turn in their committee preferences and contact him if interested in the Economic Development District. He thanked Rich Murphy and Craig Phillips for their presentation on future development in Michigan City. Ty Warner said the purchase of the Apple TV will now enable presentations directly from iPad and other Apple devices.

On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Roosevelt Allen, Brian Snedecor adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.