

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting  
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN  
December 13, 2012  
Minutes

Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions of the commissioners.

Commissioners present included Nancy Adams, Roosevelt Allen, Jr., John Bayler, Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Bob Carnahan, Tom Clouser, Jeff Dekker, Chet Dobis, Stan Dobosz, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Ken Layton, Tom McDermott, Diane Noll, Don Parker, Pamela Richard, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, James Ton, and David Uran.

Others present included Bob Alderman, Keith Benman, Ed Linden, Sandy Linden, Ted Gross, Harold Mussman, Patricia Mussman, Jeffrey Valles, Tim Brown, Ron Shimizu, Donna Slikas, Marilyn Dockstader, Jeff Justice, Lucille Justice, Dwayne Williams, John Sorensen, Tom Williamson, Jeff Veach, Beth Grisgsby, Rebecca Williams, Julie Roesler, James Darflinger, Deretta DuBox, Joyce Newland, George Malis, Marcella Kunstek, Rich Herr, Dave Ellis, Deb Backus, David Wright, Sandy O'Brien, Leigh Morris, Bill Hanna, Arthur Person, Judith Stockdale, David Farrow, Tony Eyerman, Steve Barker, Kesti Susinskas, Kent Ahrenholtz, Hodge Patel.

Staff present included John Swanson, David Hollenbeck, Belinda Petroskey, Mitch Barloga, Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Jack Eskin, Gary Evers, Kevin Garcia, Sarah Geinosky, Allen Hammond, Angie Hayes, Eman Ibrahim, Kathy Luther, Amanda Pollard, Meredith Stilwell and Mary Thorne.

Brian Snedecor motioned to amend the agenda to move the Finance & Personnel report to the beginning. Jim Ton seconded; motion carried. The NIRPC office lease will expire at the end of 2013. An RFP must be done and an amendment to the budget is needed to move \$2,250 from the line item Fringe Benefits to Other Contractual to do a space needs analysis for NIRPC for the employees' best work environment. Brian Snedecor motioned to approve, Ken Layton seconded; motion carried. Four procurement recommendations were presented: one expansion vehicle, seven replacement vehicles, transit scheduling software and radios paid for through grants with a 20% local match by the agencies. Brian Snedecor moved to approve, Jim Ton seconded; the motion carried. Brian Snedecor and Dave Hollenbeck explained an assignment agreement to the City of Cleveland to purchase six buses and NIRPC will piggyback on their agreement to purchase another bus for the City of Valparaiso. Brian Snedecor motioned to approve, Ken Layton seconded; motion carried. Brian Snedecor motioned to approve Resolution 12-24, to update the Procurement Procedures Manual; Ken Layton seconded; motion carried. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the Regional Bus Authority is not yet ready to be provided, however, an authorization of the Executive Director to enter into an MOU whereby NIRPC would become the depository of \$386,000 of RBA funds to be held as deferred revenue for distribution to NIRPC subgrantees as a local match for capital expenditure funds. Jim Ton motioned to approve, Nancy Adams seconded; motion carried.

Greg Kicinski, INDOT, presented on the Illiana Expressway study findings. The preferred route is called B3, running from I-55 in Illinois to I-65 in Indiana. The selection is based on the route being the most cost effective and best one for alleviating congestion on I-80. The study projected a population growth of 176%, vehicle trip increase by 126% and intermodal truck trip increase of 193% by the year 2040. The next phase, Tier 2, will determine the best 400-foot alignment and future planning for land use and mitigation. Meetings with landowners will take place in early 2013 and the project will come back to NIRPC for a TIP amendment.

Projected timeline for construction is three years. Currently there are no funding resources. Comments and questions may be submitted to Steve Strains or Bill Brown.

A presentation on the green infrastructure plan for expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport was made by Leigh Morris and Bill Hanna of the RDA, Arthur Pearson, Judith Stockdale and David Farron of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation and Tony Eyerman and Steve Barker of Cardno J.F. New. The purpose of the plan is to bring conflicting land use issues together to balance the analysis and evaluation of the environment and economic development to promote the environmental, economic and social balance of the Gary Airport redevelopment area. Expected outcomes include a conservation action plan and green infrastructure vision, a land use analysis of vacant parcels within the study area, a ranking and prioritization of parcels for preservation, restoration and/or economic development and an enhanced stature of the region as a desirable place to invest and live. The expected results are to guide future land use, land protection, environmental remediation, sustainability and economic development decisions; balance environmental preservation and economic interests and be a model approach that can be used elsewhere.

Report of the Chair: Chairman Benson asked the commissioners to contact one of the members of the nominating committee, consisting of Kevin Breitzke, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Ken Layton, Tom McDermott and Geof Benson, no later than December 19 at 5:00 p.m. if they were interested in serving on the Executive Board in 2013. Chairman Benson attended the groundbreaking of the new Portage Northside Trail. Chairman Benson also attended the last Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) meeting and NIRPC's Rail Vision working group at Purdue Calumet. Chairman Benson also co-chaired the meeting of the Arcelor-Mittal working group with Bill Brown to continue progress on the East Gate discussion. LaPorte County Commissioner Chairman Ken Layton will retire from public service. State Rep. Chet Dobis did not seek re-election. John Swanson will retire as NIRPC's Executive Director. All were commended for their service at NIRPC.

The minutes of the November 15 meeting were approved on a motion by Ken Layton and a second by Jim Ton.

On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by Ken Layton, the consent agenda was approved. Mayor Snedecor reported on a presentation by Purdue University on recovery of fees from accidents. Steve Strains added that the presenter would come back to do a workshop or a full commission meeting to show the value of cost recovery.

Stan Dobosz reported on the Transportation Policy Committee meeting held last month. Mitch Barloga presented on the SR 49/Vale Park Road project in Valparaiso. Kevin Garcia explained the Urban Area Boundary. On a motion by Stan Dobosz and a second by Chet Dobis, the commission moved to adopt Resolution 12-25, approving the Urban Area Boundary. The next TPC meeting is January 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Geof Benson reported that the letter drafted on the Pines radiation issue will go back to the Environmental Management Policy Committee for clarification and a re-vote.

John Swanson reported for Commissioner Shafer on the Legislative Committee meeting on November 30. Discussion included implications of MAP-21. No recommendation was being made to amend the NIRPC enabling legislation at this time. The Regional Development Authority will ask for reauthorization of its state funding, as the funding from Major Moves will expire in 2015. The committee will meet again tomorrow afternoon at Schererville Town Hall to discuss this matter. John reported on the position papers recommended by the committee. The new transportation authorization, MAP-21, will end on September 30, 2014. The position paper focus is on the role of MPO's and funding for roads, bridges, transit and freight. The

second position paper supports the reauthorization of the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Ken Layton moved to support the two position papers; David Uran seconded. Motion carried. There was one State Legislative position paper in support of the reinstatement of the Public Mass Transit Fund. There are 10 transit operators in Northwest Indiana and support was asked for the reinstatement of this funding. Chet Dobis motioned to approve the transit funding position; Jim Ton seconded. Motion carried.

Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported on the October 19 Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD) meeting. The board approved a contract for website design implementation which will be completed at year end. The District will meet December 17 to discuss projects to be included in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), reviewing goals and objectives and prioritizing projects. NWIEDD is working with Purdue University Calumet and Indiana University Northwest in submitting projects to the Indiana Economic Development Association (IEDA) for funding. Kelly Wenger continues to comply with all of the requirements of the IEDA. The District is hiring contractual staff, meeting to establish the employment process. A project tracking model is in process. A report to the EDA was submitted. Commissioner Layton will no longer be on the NWIEDD. The next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy meeting is December 21 at 9:30 a.m. at NIRPC.

Bob Alderman, Deputy Commissioner for INDOT-LaPorte District, reported that the Martin Luther King Bridge in Gary is open. The Cline Avenue Bridge demolition continues. Winter preparation is underway. There was brief Q & A on the Illiana.

Other Business: Geof Benson reminded the commissioners that a reception will be held on January 17 at NIRPC from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to welcome Ty Warner and say farewell to John Swanson.

Report of the Executive Director: John Swanson introduced Jack Eskin, NIRPC's freight and rail vision planner. Ty Warner will come on board January 2. John thanked the commission for allowing him to serve as Executive Director.

On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Brian Snedecor, Chairman Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.