

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN
February 21, 2013
Minutes

Vice-Chair Brian Snedecor 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., Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Bob Carnahan, Tom Clouser, Anthony Copeland, Dave Decker, Stan Dobosz, Don Ensign, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Tom McDermott, Blair Milo, Diane Noll, Pamela Richard, Bob Schaefer, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, and Greg Stinson.

Others present included Keith Benman, Carole Carlson, Joseph Crnkovich, Daryl Lampkins, Shannan LeFever, Christopher Murphy, Dave Nellens, Jim Nowacki, Bob Volkmann, Rebecca "Sis" Williams and David Wright.

Staff present included Ty Warner, David Hollenbeck, Angie Hayes, Allen Hammond, Joe Exl, Sarah Geinoskey, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Bill Brown, Jody Melton, Belinda Petroskey, Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, and Mary Thorne.

Attorney Dave Hollenbeck announced the appointment of Rich Mrozinski, LaPorte County Council, to the Commission.

Report of the Chair: Brian Snedecor reported on the NARC Conference of Regions in Washington DC. The majority of the conference and ensuing legislative meetings focused on the sequestration on March 1 and severe challenges which will impact transportation funding and community development programs, particularly Community Development Block Grant programs. The delegation attended meetings with congressional and senatorial leaders and the NARC board was invited to a White House briefing with officials of Federal Transit Authority, Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Office of Environmental Quality. The financial message was bleak; however, there are now communication channels at the federal level. 207 delegates from across the country attended and presenters included the Secretary of HUD. Networking with others from around the country was very informative. NIRPC's positions on Economic Development District and MAP-21 reauthorizations were brought to the table as well as the special treatment for freight and transit and keeping the highway trust fund solvent. It was noted that senior White House staffers met with NARC the day after the State of the Union address.

Brian Snedecor announced that the intent for the committee appointments was to move the Vice Chairs into the Chair position as is done on the Executive Board. See Ty or Brian after the meeting with any questions, or contact Mayor Uran next week.

The minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved on a motion by Roosevelt Allen and a second by Dave Decker.

On a motion by Roosevelt Allen and a second by Bob Schaefer, the consent agenda was approved.

Finance & Personnel Committee: Blair Milo reported on this morning's meeting. The Kankakee River Basin contract is for Jody Melton to serve as Director of that Commission, and that NIRPC provided \$20,000 to be used as the local match, rather than \$25,000. On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Roosevelt Allen, the

contract was approved. Kathy Luther worked on the Environmental Marketing contract with Hirons & Co. Communications for marketing for the Air Quality Public Education Program for \$42,500 for marketing support services and \$127,500 for media buying and placement (for billboards, media time, etc.). On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Roosevelt Allen, the contract was approved. In an amendment to the 2013 budget, the \$27.73 postage meter line item is to be moved to Communications for allocated functions. On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by Roosevelt Allen, the budget amendment was approved. The lease on the NIRPC/Forum building will expire at the end of 2013. Portage Redevelopment Commission owns the property. Staff is working on space requirements for the office for an RFP. ADA requirements are being addressed. Communities interested in leasing their space may contact Angie Hayes for more information once the analysis is done.

Stan Dobosz reported on the Transportation Policy Committee meeting held last month. Gary Evers explained a TIP amendment for highways was presented as well as a resolution to establish the selection process for projects to be funded under the new Transportation Alternatives Program. On a motion by Stan Dobosz and a second by Dave Decker, the amendment for road projects was approved. Belinda Petroskey explained a TIP amendment for transit. On a motion by Nancy Adams and a second by Roosevelt Allen, the amendment for transit projects was approved. Mitch Barloga explained a resolution for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). On a motion by Nancy Adams and a second by Roosevelt Allen, the resolution was approved. The next planning certification review by FHWA and FTA is scheduled for June 18 to 20. The next TPC meeting is March 12 and will be held in the lower level of City Hall, Michigan City, at 9:00 a.m.

The Legislative Committee has not met. The NICTD bill is in summer study and should be monitored as should HB 528 on casino revenue and SB 520 on tracking utility costs. Brief discussion followed. Ty Warner reported he attended the Indiana Association of Regional Councils legislative briefing.

There was no report from INDOT.

Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported on the January 25 Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD) meeting. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee will meet to score additional projects. The strategic plan is in its final stages; an update will be released in March. The CEDS document will be posted at NWIEDD.com. Communities may submit projects via the website. The scope of the EDA grant work is complete. The City of Gary has applied for a technical assistance grant in the amount of \$100,000 for their University project. Commissioner Allen is working with the city to secure an additional parcel of land needed for the project. He is also working with representatives from Purdue University Calumet and Hammond Development Corporation on an application for a \$1 million public works grant for their commercialization center project. The deadline for submissions is March 13. The next meeting of the full board will be in April. The CEDS Committee meets as needed.

Other Business: The bills in the General Assembly and other state matters were discussed. The NICTD bill was sent to summer study. It is of interest to NIRPC and should be monitored. SB 528 on casino revenue should be monitored. SB 520 deals with utility company tracking costs being automatically charged to customers without review by the ERC. LaPorte County Commissioners adopted a resolution opposing this; NIRPC should too. There is movement on changing the tax benefits on municipal bonds which would affect cities and towns.

Public Comment: Jim Nowacki of Gary commented on a project in the highway TIP amendment and the need for sidewalk replacements.

Announcements: The Town of New Chicago has a groundbreaking on a \$6 million project for new water lines at 320 Cleveland.

Report of the Executive Director: Ty Warner reported on the New Partners for Smart Growth conference in Kansas City, Missouri, reaching a new audience for our 2040 plan and the progress in our region. Mr. Warner also attended the NARC Conference in D.C. and the IARC conference in Indianapolis and stressed the importance of reporting to the nation on what is happening in the region, particularly how sequestration affects our communities. Blair Milo also reported on the impacts of sequestration on the military and suggested the communities contact their representatives on this matter.

On a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Anthony Copeland, Vice-Chair Snedecor adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.