

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

Call to Order: Chairman Dave Uran called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present included Nancy Adams, Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Bob Carnahan, Tom Clouser, Dave Decker, Don Ensign, Blair Milo, Diane Noll, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, James Ton, Dave Uran and George VanTil.

Others present included Robert Alderman, Keith Benman, Carole Carlson, Jim Earl, Erik Kurtz, Daryl Lampkins, Shannan LeFever, Dave Nellens, Jim Nowacki, Jim Pinkerton, Joe Simonetto, Robert Strader, Rebecca "Sis" Williams and David Wright.

Staff present included Ty Warner, David Hollenbeck, Angie Hayes, Eman Ibrahim, Kathy Luther, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Bill Brown, Jody Melton, Belinda Petroskey, Gary Evers, and Mary Thorne.

Report of the Chair: Chairman Dave Uran explained the way the committee assignments were determined. He added that the Northwest Indiana Economic Development District was formed as a public-private partnership with the Northwest Indiana Forum and the district chooses its own members. As a result, some commissioners have been assigned to one committee. An email will be sent to those commissioners to ask them to choose at least one other committee to be on. Dave Shafer added that the NARC Annual Conference will be held in June in Philadelphia. NIRPC will fund a limited number of commissioners. All commissioners are invited to attend; however most will need to cover their own costs. An email will be sent out. Flyers were sent out for the Boot Camp at NIRPC on May 7-9 from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. NIRPC is holding four public meetings in the three-county region on the draft public participation plan; flyers were available at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of February 21: Vice-Chair Brian Snedecor noted two minor changes to the minutes. On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by Jim Ton, the minutes were approved as amended.

Environmental Management Policy Committee: There was no report from the Environmental Management Policy Committee; however, the agenda and draft minutes were in the packet. George VanTil commented on the reorganization of the MS4 Program and reduction of funds, as reported in the draft minutes. Kathy Luther responded that 17 communities are still committed to the partnership and a full report as well as a budget amendment will be brought to the Full Commission in April.

Finance & Personnel Committee: Blair Milo reported on this morning's meeting. Budget Amendment #2 adds new grant funds in the amount of \$3,000 in private donations for contractual for the Cornucopia trail review event. Budget Amendment #3 adds \$6,750 in communication expenses from registration fees to cover expenses for the Environmental Boot Camp workshop. On a motion by Blair Milo and a second by James Ton, the Executive Board approved the two amendments to the 2013 budget. Mayor Milo reported that a space needs analysis was conducted at NIRPC and the Northwest Indiana Forum to gauge staff requirements for a building. The RFP for the building lease will be distributed this week and must be advertised for 30 days. The results won't be in before the April Full Commission meeting, so the F&P Committee will hold a special executive session to review the applicants and score the applications based on price, telecommunications, location, timing (ready-to-move-in accessibility), green components, and draft lease. The Full Commission will be invited to attend. Upon review of the submission, the F&P Committee will aim to make a recommendation to the Full Commission of at least three locations, depending on the number and quality of sites submitted for

consideration. The May NIRPC meeting will be a Full Commission meeting rather than Executive Committee and will be moved to May 23 instead of May 16. The first part of the meeting will be an executive session of the Full Commission to allow for presentation and discussion of the recommendations of the F&P Committee. The public meeting of the Full Commission will immediately follow where the expectation is for a weighted vote of the Full Commission to select the location and lease for the NIRPC offices upon expiration of its current lease. All communities, including the City of Portage, are invited to submit an RFP.

Transportation Policy Committee: Bill Brown reported on the Transportation Policy Committee meeting held on March 12, which included a presentation on development activities in Michigan City. Gary Evers explained a TIP amendment for highway projects for INDOT and LaPorte County. Belinda Petroskey explained a TIP amendment for three transit projects. On a motion by James Ton and a second by Dave Decker, the two amendments were approved. Stephen Sostaric reported on four amendments to the Complete Streets Design Guidelines, which is available at www.atpolicy.org. The next TPC meeting is April 9 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

Legislative Committee: A full report on the Legislative Committee will be given next month by Tom McDermott and Jon Costas.

INDOT: Robert Alderman of INDOT reported that INDOT is taking a look at the long-standing request from the National Lake Shore about taking over a portion of US 12. INDOT is in the process of executing a contract with the City of LaPorte to provide a propane fueling station for their buses. Construction will begin on various projects once the weather improves. Jim Earl reported that Tier I of the Illiana study was completed. The project is a public-private partnership and a primarily freight corridor. FHWA approved the B3 corridor for consideration. Tier II will involve studies, field work, meetings with local stakeholders to assess concerns and share information. Meetings with property owners in both states are ongoing. The Cedar Lake meetings were for landowners within the 2,000-foot corridor. The first public meetings on Tier II will be in Illinois on April 16 and in Indiana on April 18. The second run will be in June or July. A meeting with industrial stakeholders will take place in May. A public hearing will be held in the fall to present all the information gathered. INDOT met with NIRPC's technical planning team and others around the region. More information will improve the project. Attendance at meetings was encouraged. Discussion followed. An Open House will be held on May 9 at the INDOT LaPorte district office both in the afternoon and early evening. Details will follow.

Northwest Indiana Economic Development District: Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee met on March 14 to score two new Purdue projects for a manufacturing center and a commercialization center regarding their application to EPA for two grants. The CEDS draft update will be presented to the EDA this month. An Executive Summary will be created for the CEDS. NWIEDD is applying for an operations grant which may be delayed due to sequestration. The EDA is operating on a continuing resolution until 3/29. There is no current debt; they are \$25,000 in the black. The operating grant is for three years at \$100,000. The only expense is for a 2013 audit. The EDA will not cover existing costs before they receive an operations grant. The Northwest Indiana Forum will continue to help fund their share of the operations. NIRPC staff is providing pro bono service as is Attorney Patrick Lyp. They are awaiting appropriations of funds by Congress. The next meeting of the NWIEDD will be April 19 at 9:30 a.m. Projects may be submitted on the website. The next meeting of the full board will be in April. The CEDS Committee meets as needed.

Public Comment: Jim Nowacki of Gary commented on the public transit availability to the locations of NIRPC's public meetings on March 25 at Michigan City City Hall, March 27 at Valparaiso City Hall and two meetings on April 2 at the Hammond Public Library. Belinda Petroskey responded that the Hammond meeting is accessible by demand response service supplied by the North Township Trustee to any resident of Hammond, Whiting,

East Chicago, Munster and Highland. Gary Public Transportation Corporation's Tri-City connection goes from Gary to downtown Hammond and downtown East Chicago and would require a transfer. Porter County Aging and Community Service and Opportunity Enterprises provide demand response service only to the elderly and disabled residents of Porter County. Michigan City operates both fixed route and complementary para-transit service. Unfortunately, there is disconnection between LaPorte and Michigan City. It is anticipated that in LaPorte County, the Triangle Service will soon be available between LaPorte, Michigan City, Westville and Purdue North Central.

Announcements: Dave Shafer announced that the National Association of Regional Councils joined with NATO, the National League of Cities and other national organizations in opposing a bill that would remove tax-exempt status of municipal bonds which would increase costs to local municipalities, curtail local infrastructure projects and could decrease jobs.

Report of the Executive Director: Ty Warner reported that Dave Shafer presided over a meeting of a group of six Midwestern states in Indianapolis on MAP-21. Mr. Warner and other NIRPC staff attended Road School, the Indiana American Planning Association conference and also presented at Leadership LaPorte and Leadership Northwest Indiana about NIRPC's activities. The Northwest Indiana Forum is involved in the RFP for the lease and desires to be co-located with NIRPC if possible. The Public Participation Plan information and webinar are on the NIRPC website. Increased funding for expansion of public transit throughout the region was part of NIRPC's legislative platform in Washington D.C. last month.

Adjournment: On a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by Nancy Adams, Chairman Uran adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.