

## Minutes of the NIRPC June 21, 2012, Executive Board Meeting

Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Self-introductions were made.

Commissioners present were Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Bob Carnahan, Tom Clouser, Anthony Copeland, Chet Dobis, Stan Dobosz, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Tom McDermott, Dave Shafer, Brian Snedecor, Joe Stahura, Greg Stinson, and James Ton.

Others present included Steve Landry, Mike Molnar, Jim Nowacki, Joe Simonetto, Val Gomez, Jorge Ortiz, Bob Volkmann, Jim Pinkerton, David Wright, Rebecca Williams, Lee Botts, and Keith Benman.

Staff present included John Swanson, David Hollenbeck, Eman Ibrahim, Belinda Petroskey, Kathy Luther, Kevin Garcia, Bob Niezgodski, Bill Brown, Tom VanderWoude, Gabrielle Biciunas, Kelly Wenger, La'Kisha Girder, Wenya Hou, Adeyemi Adeleke and Mary Thorne.

Report of the Chair: Chairman Benson briefly discussed participation at the National Association of Regional Councils annual conference. Of note was that Commissioner Dave Shafer was installed as the first president ever from Indiana, Benson was elected to the Region 6 Board seat and NIRPC received the Outstanding Achievement Award for the third consecutive year for mid-size regional council in recognition of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. In Congress, Resolution #10 extending the current extension of SAFETEA-LU expires June 30 and both houses want versions of the bill. Neither version will bode well for Indiana in total level of funding. Efforts have been made to express our concerns.

The Arcelor-Mittal work group received cost estimates from INDOT and Porter County at their meeting on June 4 to construct a new road segment and NIPSCO responded that they are not willing to consider the use of their right of way. INDOT will provide estimates for a conceptual design on another option for a new bridge as well as alter their signal timing. Arcelor-Mittal took steps of their own to alleviate the congestion by evacuating trucks into their parking lot, scale, and adding signage to steer trucks back to 149.

Presentation: Steve Landry presented on the Gary Chicago Airport's progress on the expansion project which is projected for completion in December 2013. At that time, the airport will begin updating their master plan. The initial realignment was moved resulting in changes, added culverts, and more clean up. 2012 sees filling in wetlands, land prep for runway extension grading, and signal change design. 2013 will see the realignment of tracks and final extension of the runway.

Landry gave an update on Allegiant service which began in February. Statistics were provided. A marketing and communications liaison will be hired to increase ridership to 10,000 per calendar year to be eligible to receive \$1 million per year from the FAA for capital improvements.

The minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup> were approved on a motion by Brian Snedecor and a second by Chet Dobis.

Chairman Benson reported on the Environmental Management Policy Committee. NIRPC received a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to implement green infrastructure to provide tech support projects. Eight projects were received and projects for East Chicago, Portage and Cedar Lake were chosen.

Dave Shafer reported on the Executive Director search. The Mercer Group was in the office from June 6-8 to interview 37 people, including staff, commission members and others and tour the region. Their fee is \$15,000 plus expenses. Expenses are at \$20,000 which is still within our estimated budget. Twenty-two potential candidates were suggested. The Mercer Group will provide feedback next week compiling all the information received into a preliminary job description, create a solicitation brochure, ads and outreach. The goal is to bring to the Full Commission for approval in October a prospective new Executive Director to shadow John Swanson. Contact Dave Hollenbeck or John Swanson if you would like to submit comments to the Mercer Group.

Brian Snedecor reported that the Finance & Personnel Committee recommended Resolution 12-14 to the Commission to appoint Wilmington Trust Retirement & Institutional Services Company as successor trustee for the 457 Governmental Deferred Compensation Plan No. 300477, to accept the resignation of Vantage Trust Company LLC as passive-directed trustee of the Plan July 31, 2012 and to name the Director of Finance & Administration Plan Coordinator. Brian Snedecor moved to adopt Resolution 12-14, Tom McDermott seconded; motion carried.

Brian explained the FTA Procurement Procedures Manual for projects which is needed to comply with FTA guidelines. Language was added for construction-related projects. On a motion by Brian Snedecor, seconded by Jim Ton, Resolution 12-15 making the FTA Procurement Procedures Manual official policy was adopted by the Executive Board. It will also have to be adopted by all subgrantees.

Stan Dobosz reported that NICTD presented their Michigan City re-route study to the Transportation Policy Committee at their meeting. Staff has begun presenting the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan to various city and town councils. Belinda Petroskey explained Resolution 12-16 to the FY2012-2015 TIP, which would add, delete or change some projects for NICTD. Jim Ton moved to adopt Resolution 12-16; Chet Dobis seconded; motion carried. The next TPC meeting is on July 10 at 9:00 a.m. with an update on the federal transportation reauthorization.

Roosevelt Allen reported that the July 15 Northwest Indiana Economic Development District meeting was cancelled and a CEDS meeting will substitute. Changes were made to the by-laws as required for compensation arrangements for staff and/or independent contractors to comply with IRS requirements and developing a conflict of interest policy as required by the IRS and the state of Indiana. The district is an Indiana 501(c)3 but not a state 501(c)3 and attorney, Patrick Lyp will draw up the necessary documents. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

Bob Alderman of INDOT gave an update on road projects around the region.

Public Comment: Jim Nowacki commented on excerpts from the Executive Director's report regarding \$350,000 remaining in the RBA's budget which can be used to augment bus services in the urban areas.

Tom McDermott commented that NIRPC acted appropriately and at no time was the RBA budget paid to NIRPC ever an issue.

Report of the Executive Director: John Swanson added that the RBA shut down is inevitable. A meeting was held on Wednesday with the RBA, GPTC, North Township, East Chicago Transit and other operators to discuss the issues of the transit population which is about to be unserved as of June 30. The primary question is how to operate complimentary para-transit. The RBA is a sub-grantee.

John introduced NIRPC intern Adeyemi Adeleke, a student at Purdue University Calumet, who will be working in the Environmental Department.

David Wright of GPTC announced today is "Dump the Pump" Day, where people are encouraged to use public transportation.

The Lake Michigan Shoreline Development Commission will meet today to discuss the Marquette Plan.

Holladay Properties was hired by the City of Portage to manage the office space for NIRPC/NWI Forum.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.