

Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage

February 13, 2018

MINUTES

Vice Chairman George Topoll called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members present included George Topoll, David Wright, Tyler Kent, Tom MacLennan, Julie Ritzler, Kelly Wenger, Susan Weber, Joyce Newland, Bill Emerson, Jr., Teri Dixon and Margot Sabato. Kevin Brietzke arrived later in the meeting. Others present included Bruce Lindner, Jerry Siska, Claudia Taylor, Dean Button, Jeff Huet, Jake Dammarell, Frank Rosado, Jr., Ismail Attallah, Don Oliphant, Chris Moore, Andrew Steele, Laurie Keagle, Greg Towler and Christopher Murphy. Staff present included Kathy Luther, Trey Wadsworth, Mitch Barloga, Eman Ibrahim, Charles Bradsky, James Winters, Gabrielle Biciunas, Scott Weber and Mary Thorne.

The INDOT participation survey was available at the table in the lobby. The minutes of the January 9, 2018 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved by general consensus.

There were no requests for public comment.

Presentation:

Mitch Barloga presented on the draft 2020 Greenways+Blueways Plan. It is out for public comment. Go to the website for more information or to leave a comment at <http://www.nirpc.org/2018/02/01/30-day-public-comment-period-on-new-documents-amendments/>.

Implementation Planning

- a) Kathy Luther presented an update on the VW Settlement. IDEM held a public meeting here last Tuesday. Shawn Seals, Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), presented at the January Commission meeting. Indiana's portion of the settlement amounts to about \$41 million. The solicitation for projects will be released in summer or fall of 2018. For more information, go to <http://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/2712.htm>. To submit comments on the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, go to VWTrust@idem.in.gov. Questions should be directed to Shawn Seals at 317-233-0425 or SSeals@idem.IN.gov. South Shore Clean Cities is available to answer questions.
- b) Kathy Luther presented an update on the Deep River Dam in Lake Station. A feasibility study will be performed. A public meeting was held in Lake Station a couple of weeks ago with a lot of public interest. It is part of our 2040 Plan implantation.

Programming

There was no report.

Topical Committee Reports:

- Kathy Luther said the Environmental Management Policy Committee met last Thursday and heard a presentation from the Field Museum and Save the Dunes on climate change predictions for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. On Friday, NIRPC applied to FHWA for a pilot dam opportunity for pilot projects to evaluate vulnerability of transportation infrastructure.

- Mitch Barloga said the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee saw a presentation on the draft 2020 Greenways+Blueways Plan at its meeting last Thursday. The next meeting is on March 1 at 1:30 at NIRPC and NICTD will present on the Bikes on Trains program.
- James Winters said the Transit Operators will meet immediately following the TPC meeting to discuss the project selection process for Lake and Porter Counties.
- Eman Ibrahim said the Land Use Committee met on January 17 and saw a presentation from GPTC on the first Bus Rapid Transit on the Broadway Corridor, a presentation from staff on the Food System Council and an update on land use data using GIS and parcel data. The next meeting will be on March 21.
- Scott Weber said the Surface Transportation Committee met on February 6 and discussed bridge conditions in Northwest Indiana in comparison with the rest of the state. An update was given on our adoption of INDOT's safety performance measures which will be a formal amendment to our plan in March. We are performing a Household Travel Survey in conjunction with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). An update was given on our congestion and reliability project with Valparaiso University and the air quality post processor. The next meeting is April 3 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Planning Partners

- a) Susan Weber said FTA shared the draft certification report with NIRPC. Staff is reviewing the report.
- b) Teri Dixon said CMAP is working through their 2050 plan.

Emerging Trends:

Mitch Barloga showed a brief YouTube video titled, "*Hobart – the Eco-Friendly City*". Laurie Keagle commented that their CNG station is up and running and the public works garage is designed to handle maintenance of the CNG vehicles.

Announcements and Events:

- South Shore Clean Cities Annual Meeting and Awards is on February 20 at the Blue Chip Event Center. Register at <http://southshorecleancities.org/events.php>.
- Gabrielle Biciunas gave a brief background on local food systems. A Food Expo and Discussion (FED) will be held on February 23 at County Line Orchard on food deserts and food access. For more information, go to <https://www.nwifoodcouncil.org/>.
- Mitch Barloga said an ADA 101 for Outdoor Recreation and Parks seminar hosted by Causes for Change and the National Park Service will take place on March 20 in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC. Registration is free; however, you must bring your own lunch. More information will be forthcoming.
- The upcoming meetings were announced.

The next Technical Planning Committee meeting will be on March 13 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC. Hearing no other business, George Topoll adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone number or email below should you wish to receive a copy or a portion of it.