

**NIRPC Executive Board Meeting**  
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN  
April 18, 2019  
Minutes

Call to Order - Chairperson Diane Noll called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

Executive Board Members present included Geof Benson, Justin Kiel, Mark Krentz, Diane Noll, Greg Stinson, James Ton and George Topoll.

Other Commissioners present included Kyle Allen, Sr., Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Will Farrellbegg, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer and Brian Snedecor.

Guests present included Mary Brown, Carl Lisek, Tim Werner, AJ Monroe, Lauren Varga, Ismail Attallah, Rick Powers, Matt Deitchley, Christopher Murphy, David Wright, Kayanna Kilosa, Gorgon Ferguson, Tim Zorn and Andrew Steele.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Daria Sztaba, Kathy Luther, Trey Wadsworth, Talaya Jones, Mitch Barloga, Lisa Todd, Dominique Edwards, Charles Bradsky, and Candice Eklund.

Public Comments –

There were no comments from the public.

Minutes – The minutes of the March 21, 2019 Executive Board meeting were approved on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by George Topoll.

Report of the Chair – Diane Noll

Diane Noll reported that Nick Meyer, Commissioner from Long Beach, will be replaced by Mark Krentz, Mayor of the City of La Porte, on the Technical Planning Committee.

Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner

Ty Warner introduced Carl Lisek, of South Shore Clean Cities, who spoke on the VW mitigation settlement process. \$41 million is available to Indiana to reduce emissions. Any diesel-powered vehicle can be replaced with another diesel vehicle or an alternative fuel vehicle. South Shore Clean Cities will file applications with the communities and with NIRPC. \$9.8 million is currently being solicited for Indiana with IDEM for on-road and non-road vehicles. A minimum of three applications will be placed for this round and communities can apply for electric charging stations or electric vehicles. The settlement money is not considered federal money and an award can be leveraged with federal money. The grant applications close on June 17. The goal is to have every NIRPC community be a part of the Green Fleet Program.

Ty Warner said the draft *NWI 2050 Plan* is currently out for public comment and one of the sections discusses possible futures and references alternative fuels and reduced emissions. Mr. Warner read the handout dates, times and locations of the Open Houses and public hearings. The locations are

transit accessible. The comment period continues throughout April. Comments can be taken at the hearings, online and on NIRPC's website. The plan continues NIRPC's commitment to environmental issues, transportation and economic development.

Kathy Luther announced that NIRPC and the Northwest Indiana Forum are hosting a workshop Thursday, May 2 at 1 pm in the Lake Michigan Room to discuss wetland permitting changes, waterway permits and habitat issues. There is a new tool to move permitting and mitigation along more quickly which will be explained by the Department of Natural Resources. An informal conversation will take place with DNR at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 2, which will replace the more formal Environmental Management Policy Committee meeting.

Diane Noll announced a change in the order of the agenda. The report from the Technical Planning Committee will take place first with the report of the Finance & Personnel Committee to follow.

Kevin Breitzke reported that the regular Technical Planning Committee meeting took place on April 9 and a special meeting was held on April 16 to resolve outstanding matters relating to projects in the draft FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. The first action is on Resolution 19-14, Amendment #2 to the FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program. Trey Wadsworth summarized the 30-day public comment period and explained the action, which was recommended favorably by the Technical Planning Committee. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-14, Amendment #2 to the FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program.

The second action is on Resolution 19-15, Amendment #21 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. Charles Bradsky said no public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. However, after a review by Federal Highways Administration and the Interagency Consultation Group, it was found that several projects were inadvertently left off. They were added in and the TIP went out for a 9-day public comment period during which no public comments were received. Technical comments were submitted by the Federal Highway Administration on the R-TIP, asking for more specific location data, whether the project is exempt or non-exempt from air quality conformity, the project route and whether the project adds capacity to the roadway. These changes were outlined in the materials. The action was recommended favorably by the Technical Planning Committee. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-15, Amendment #21 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Kevin Brietzke said the Draft *NWI 2050 Plan* is out for a 30-day public comment period. The open houses and public hearings will take place next week. Mitch Barloga presented an overview of the *NWI 2050 Plan* which is out for public comment through April 30. The Plan examines trends and influences of the future including economy and place, environment, mobility, and people and leaders. It identifies strategies to pursue, investments to make, and progress to measure to achieve the vision for the region. This plan provides sixteen critical paths of action to be prepared for Northwestern Indiana's future. The Plan is online at <https://www.nirpc.org/2040-plan/transportation/2050-plan/>. Information includes the Plan Storybook, the Plan in PDF format, a link for comments and information on the open houses and

public hearings which will be held during the last full week of April in all three counties. Schedules were available.

Also out for public comment through April 30 is the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. It is on the NIRPC website at under the Transportation/2020-2024 TIP dropdown. All input from the public and the topical committees will be presented in a public comment report.

The Transportation Conformity Determination for the *NWI 2050 Plan* and 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program can be found on the NIRPC website under the Environmental - Air Quality drop down. It is also open for public comment through April 30. Mr. Warner added that adoption of the Plan, TIP and Air Quality Conformity will be sought at the Full Commission meeting on May 16. Mr. Breitzke said he asked staff to review the process and determine the “lessons learned” to prepare for the next NOFA. He also welcomed Mayor Krentz as a new member of the TPC. The next Technical Planning Committee meeting will take place on May 14 at 10 a.m. at NIRPC.

Finance & Personnel Committee – Justin Kiel

Justin Kiel said the committee met this morning to review the financial status, reconciliation of expenses, and approve the claims register. There were two actions recommended by the Finance & Personnel Committee and requested of the Board today.

Lisa Todd explained Resolution 19-16, NIRPC’s Purchasing and Procurement Policy which has been changed due to the receipt of technical comments from INDOT. The new policy additions are highlighted on the handout and will allow for more efficient guidelines. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-16, NIRPC’s Purchasing and Procurement Policy as presented.

Dave Hollenbeck asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 19-17 an update to the adopted FTA Procurement Procedure Manual. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to amend the agenda to include Resolution 19-17.

Mr. Hollenbeck explained Resolution 19-17, an update to the adopted FTA Procurement Procedure Manual. The need for the update was brought up at this morning’s Finance & Personnel Committee. Section 3 of the manual explains that the subrecipients pay 20% of the cost of a new bus with a federal share of 80%. The buses are ordered once the subrecipient pays the 20% share and delivery of the bus can take up to a year. East Chicago would like to order a couple of buses and their match would be paid out of a grant they believe they will receive from the VW Settlement for diesel vehicles, which they won’t hear about until August. If the buses are not ordered by the end of April, we will see a significant price increase on May 1 which will be the responsibility of East Chicago to pay. The new language basically provides that a subrecipient may petition for an exception upon adequately showing that the monies are available and are encumbered. It also provides for staff to add additional verification standards as they deem necessary to preserve the integrity of the process and also delegates to the F&P Committee the following of this procedure and the ability to grant the exception without having to seek Board approval. There will be no out of pocket expense to NIRPC as the buses are paid for when they are delivered. If East Chicago does not get the settlement award, they would proceed with the purchase order to NIRPC and they have encumbered the funds in their

budget to be paid out of other funds. Upon a favorable vote today, the F&P Committee is recommending to grant the exception to East Chicago and order their buses. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by George Topoll, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 19-17 amending the FTA Procurement Procedures Manual as presented.

#### Indiana Department of Transportation - Rick Powers

Rick Powers reported that INDOT is launching Indiana's vision of being known as a leader of innovation. He reported on projects and Road School, and said we need to start thinking about what our infrastructure will look like in the future with the onset of autonomous vehicles, and issues of leadership, safety, planning and compliance as INDOT turns 100.

#### Other Business -

- Bob Carnahan discussed the upcoming census and said communities should be forming a Complete Count Committee.

#### Announcements –

- Dave Shafer said the Town of Munster received an award for a grade separation project for 45th Avenue and the Canadian National railroad tracks. On behalf of Munster, Mr. Shafer thanked NIRPC and INDOT for their assistance during the process.
- Bob Carnahan announced the Cedar Lake Chamber of Commerce luncheon is today at noon and the topic is on cyber security.
- Justin Kiel said HB 1270 is going through the legislature to restructure the Kankakee River Basin Commission. It creates a requirement to have a special assessment to help fund the KRBC.
- Carl Lisek said South Shore Clean Cities will hold their 20-year Anniversary on June 18 at Avalon Manor. Also, a 47 mile stretch of I-94 has been classified by Federal Highways as the nation's first Alternative Fuel Corridor and they are working with INDOT on getting signage. A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned.

#### Adjournment –

Hearing no other business, Diane Noll adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m. The Executive Board will meet on May 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

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