

**St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission
200 Grand River Avenue, Conference Room A
Port Huron, Michigan 48060**

W e d n e s d a y

J a n u a r y 2 0 , 2 0 1 0

4 : 0 0 p . m .

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Present: Andrews, Cooper, DeBoyer, Heidemann, Lockwood, Murphy, Secory, Sheehy
Excused: Sass, Steffy and Tansky
Staff: Kauffman, Diedrich, Donaldson, Eschenburg, Floyd, Latuszek, and Struck
Guests: None

2. Election of Officers

Marsden Murphy turned the meeting over to Commissioner Sheehy who is Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Sheehy stated that the Nominations Committee was comprised of Steve Cooper, Bob Tansky and himself. There is also the opportunity for the commissioners to nominate someone from the floor. The committee offered a slate of candidates for the officer positions. Once a name is submitted, there is an opportunity for the commissioners to nominate someone from the floor.

A. Chairperson

The Nominations Committee offered the name of Marsden Murphy as the Chairperson. Chair Sheehy then asked three times if there were additional names from the floor. There being none, **motion** by Cooper, supported by Andrews to retain Marsden Murphy as Chairperson of Metropolitan Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Vice Chairperson

The Nominations Committee submitted the name of Dan Lockwood for Vice Chair and asked if there were additional nominations from the floor. No additional names were submitted. **Motion** by Heidemann, supported by Andrews to retain Dan Lockwood as Vice Chairperson of Metropolitan Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Secretary

The Nominating Committee submitted the name of Robert Sheehy for Secretary and asked three times for nominations from the floor. There being none, **motion** by Heidemann, supported by Secory to retain Robert Sheehy as Secretary of Metropolitan Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was turned back to Chairman Murphy.

3. Set Dates and Times for 2010 Meetings

A tentative schedule was given to the members in their agenda packet. **Motion** by Cooper, supported by Andrews to approve the meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Changes in Order/Additions/Deletions to the agenda

Motion by Lockwood, supported by Sheehy that agenda item 14 B Presentation of the New Mapping Website be moved up to 4 A. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Presentation of the New Mapping Website

Mr. Cox stated that he recently wrapped up the development of the mapping Website for public and internal use. Information was available in the agenda packet and he proceeded to give a demonstration of the updated Mapping Website.

The purpose of the update is due to older technology and software used in the current system. It is the intent to provide to public and employees with quick access to land records and a good mapping interface for parcel information.

The old Website will be taken down in about six months. The new site requires *Microsoft Silverlight* which can be downloaded by users. The *Microsoft Silverlight* software is compatible with all Web browsers, however, individuals may need to update their Windows in order for *Microsoft Silverlight* to work.

5. Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission

No citizens were present who wished to address the commission.

6. Comments/News from the Planning Commissioners and Staff

Commissioner Lockwood spoke of the first Winter Festival coming up in St. Clair the weekend of January 23.

Commissioner Sheehy advised everyone that the City of Marysville is in the process of investing around \$20 million for a wastewater treatment plant. Due to stimulus money the city will only have to pay back 60 percent of what was borrowed.

Commissioner DeBoyer stated that Clay Township received information that Cottrellville Township has applied for a DNR grant for the Robert Landing property. The grant money will be used to purchase the property and develop a park there. The property is right on the water.

Commissioner Andrews provided mouse pads advertising the 2010 Census.

Commissioner Secory talked about some historical books the museum received and are in the process of being indexed. The museum has someone from Michigan Works! that is typing up the list and eventually the land records and other records that were found can be put on

line so people can access the old information. They have uncovered an amazing amount of information on the county with some dating back to the 1800s.

Commissioner Heidemann gave an update on the Alternative Energy Stimulus money the county has received. The expectation is that by March work will be started at the landfill. The hope is that the life expectancy of the landfill will go from 20 years to the year 2100. The facility will house a landfill gas-to-energy conversion unit in conjunction with Detroit Edison. There will be a conference center built and a leachate treatment facility. Currently it costs about six cents a gallon to take care of the leachate and it should reduce the cost to one cent per gallon. In addition, the county will receive payment for the electricity made from the methane gas.

On another note, DTE has committed to giving the county \$50,000 for the Economic Development Fund.

Bill Kauffman advised everyone that on the 21st the City/County Economic Steering Committee will meet to begin to their efforts in a series of five meetings, of which four will be working meetings and the fifth one will be a presentation to the public, which will run for a half day. A good cross section of individuals is involved in this committee.

Yesterday the Executive Committee received some basic information on the baseline economic study. One item of note from the study was the fact that many parts of the country do not have a workforce that possesses manufacturing skills, the ability to work on a line or adapt to a manufacturing environment. This work requires a certain set of skills and many people in Michigan have those skills. The manufacturing industry is realizing that the required skill set is nonexistent and it is very difficult for some manufacturers to get work done efficiently because the workers are not in the vicinity.

Also brought out in the study is the fact that as a manufacturing workforce this county possesses a lot of innovation. The workers on the floor are very innovative, much more so than any place else in Michigan.

A study done in 2004 showed that St. Clair was ranked third in the state in the number of patents that were issued. This is due in part to the fact that people on the floor have ideas on how to simplify operations or take a tool or product and improve upon it, thus resulting in the patents. The fact that St. Clair County is third in the state demonstrates that our manufacturing workforce is a strong workforce.

There has been a lot of growth in the last five or six years in health care employment. Most of that is from small private companies that have been set up who recognize the huge potential to provide health care to residents of Ontario. There are many services lacking in Ontario and the Province has an agreement with the United States to allow payment for the services they are lacking. This has great potential for St. Clair County.

Few jobs exist in logistics, but again there is a lot of potential along U.S./Canadian border communities where Canadian companies are located close to the border. They would ship things to the U.S., establish businesses to make their products compliant with U.S. regulations. There are great opportunities in this area.

Commissioner Murphy spoke of the talented people that are sitting on the Steering Committee meeting that Bill Kauffman spoke of earlier.

7. Approval of Minutes - December 16, 2009

Motion by Sheehy, supported by Heidemann to approve the minutes of December 16, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Acceptance of Communications

Motion by DeBoyer, supported by Cooper to receive and file the communications. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Financial Report

A. Report ending 12-31-2009

Kauffman reported that in the unaudited figures it appears we will be carrying over a small 2009 fund balance into our overall fund balance. **Motion** by Lockwood, supported by Andrews to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports ending 12-31-09. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda

A. Berlin Township – Text Amendment for Wind Energy Conversion Systems

Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with the Berlin Township Planning Commission and recommend approval of the proposed text amendments to their Zoning Ordinance. The proposed changes will allow Berlin Township to administer their zoning regulations more effectively by catering towards their changing needs. It also allows for an appropriate balance between the need for clean, renewable energy resources and the necessity to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Additionally, communities that proactively plan for wind energy systems and carefully develop regulations for their installation will avoid a measure of uncertainty and the unfortunate public discord that sometimes comes along with new land use proposals.

Motion by Andrews, supported by DeBoyer to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

11. Staff Work Program Report

Chairman Murphy stated that staff used the comments provided in the quarterly checklist to make a combined Staff/Director Report in order to reduce duplication of information.

Updates to the Work Program Reports were as follows:

Aerial Flight 2010 - Eschenburg reported that our total for the 2010 aerial flight is scheduled for spring is \$6,315 of which 25% will be due in January. The fee of \$6,315 is for around \$150,000 worth of work. We will be receiving LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) for 2010 free due to stimulus money that is being used.

U.S. Census - Diedrich reported that the U.S. Census Bureau asked staff to update the county's boundary maps. Diedrich requested digital files so staff could do them electronically. The electronic copies have been received and staff is working on the updates.

Housing – Neighborhood Stabilization Project (NSP) - Struck gave an update on NSP, where funds must be committed by June 30. Recently the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) visited the Planning Department and as a result of that meeting there has been clarification of HUD requirements. This clarification has cleared the way for Habitat for Humanity to move forward and acquire properties under the NSP. It is anticipated that most of our projects should be committed by the end of February.

There are two projects currently ongoing. One is a homebuyer-driven project where a citizen is buying the home and will be receiving NSP assistance. Another home will be closed on within the next couple of weeks.

FEMA Floodplain Maps - Floyd gave an update on the FEMA Website. Regulation 60.3 must be adopted per FEMA and staff had to do some research to find out what the regulation was about. Staff has since created a checklist of all the things that must be adopted by each community in order to participate in the Flood Insurance Program. This information will be placed on the FEMA portion of the county's Website.

12. Chairperson's Report

The Chairman's report was in the agenda packet passed out at the meeting and a brief overview was given by Chairman Murphy. **Motion** by Lockwood, supported by Andrews to approve the Staff Work Program Report and Chairman's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Old Business

A. EECBG – Development of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy

Donaldson gave a brief overview of the Energy Efficiency Grant through the federal government and a detail of the strategy that has to be reported by our office no later than February 10, 2010.

Donaldson gave a brief description of that items that will be accomplished under the EECBG.

14. New Business

A. MPC Checklist

Chairman Murphy gave an overview of the results of the December quarterly checklist which was presented in the agenda packet. Changes to the Work Program Reports was a result of the comments received in December.

B. Presentation of New Mapping Web Site

This was covered under agenda Item 4 A.

C. Winter Workshop Reminder

The Workshop will be held on February 25 from 6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Staff will be finalizing the various topics and getting confirmation from the presenters in the next week. Brochures will be mailed out the first week in February.

D. SCCOTS – Unified Planning Work Program and Budget

An overview of the Unified Planning Work Program was given by Latuszek.

Motion by Andrews, supported by Sheehy to approve the SCCOTS FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program including program tasks and budget for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. BWATC – Transit Capital and Transit Operating Funding Adjustment

An overview of the staff report in the agenda packet was given by Latuszek. **Motion** by Sheehy, supported by DeBoyer to approve an administrative modification to the SCCOTS FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

F. St. Clair County Road Commission – Palms Road Funding FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Latuszek gave an overview of the staff report in the agenda packet. **Motion** by Heidemann, supported by Lockwood to approve an amendment to the SCCOTS FY2008-2011 TIP adding the FY 2010 St. Clair County Road Commission project “Palms Road (Division Road to Trumble Road)” as presented.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Andrews, Cooper, DeBoyer, Heidemann, Lockwood, Murphy, Secory, and Sheehy. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

G. St. Clair County Road Commission – CN NAFTA Funding Adjustment

An overview of the Transportation TIP Amendment was given by Latuszek. A staff report was in the agenda packet.

Motion by Heidemann, supported by Andrews to approve funding adjustments to the St. Clair County Road Commission CN NAFTA (grade separation) project as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

H. St. Clair County Road Commission – American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, Gratiot Road Project Selection

An overview of the staff report was given by Latuszek. **Motion** by DeBoyer, supported by Heidemann, to approve the selection of Gratiot Road (Airport Road to 1,087 feet east of Allen Road) as SCCOTS’ priority project for ARRA funding, as presented. Roll Call

Vote – Ayes: Andrews, Cooper, DeBoyer, Heidemann, Lockwood, Murphy, Secory, and Sheehy. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Lockwood, supported by DeBoyer to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sheehy, Secretary

Prepared by: Dale Fulton, Office Manager