



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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MINUTES

OF THE

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL MEETING

October 11, 2024

**Garland Resort
Lewiston, MI**

1. Call to Order

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Board of Directors Annual meeting was called to order by S. McLennan, at 11:10 a.m., a quorum was declared.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

In Person: Terry Small, Laurie Jamison, Dawn Hubbard, Jackie Bondar, Mary Anne Heidemann, Jessica Topp, Ted Fines, Kelli Stockwell, Travis Hewitt, Scott McLennan, and Jeff Lawson.

Staff Present: Doug Baum, Denise Cline, Theresa Huff, Chelsea Goodwin, Nico Tucker, Jessica VanWulfen, Heather Runyan, Melissa Chambers, Jared Cline, and Ethan Cline.

3. Approval of Agenda

D. Hubbard moved, seconded by J. Bondar, to approve the agenda as presented. Yes all, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 19, 2024, meeting were provided. T. Fines moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by J. Topp. Yes all, motion carried.

5. New Business

Approval of Materials Management Committee Nominations: N. Tucker briefly discussed the Nominations for Materials Management Planning Committee handout. T. Small moved to approve the Nominations as presented, seconded by J. Lawson. Yes all, motion carried.

6. Welcome to NEMCOG's Annual Meeting

D. Baum welcomed everyone to the NEMCOG Board of Directors Annual Meeting. He thanked Oscoda County for hosting the event.

7. Guest Speakers

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

A. Quentin L. Messer, Jr./Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer

Q. Messer gave a presentation on Michigan's Economic Development Strategy. A handout was provided to the group. Michigan knows how to make and grow things. This draws tax dollars into Michigan. Perception is a reality, until the reality becomes the perception. People are human assets. K-12, MI works, population; redefine the narrative. We live where we want to be a part of the community. Need to make sure people know how to connect with the MEDC and other resources. Places to live, play, go to school, but also work. Place, people and projects are intertwined. Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program. Now on RAP 3.0. Placemaking allows sharing of information in a thoughtful way. It takes difficult but productive conversations. It provides access to gap financing for place-based infrastructure development, real estate rehabilitation and development, and public space improvements. There is global competition for talent and funding dollars. Must have resources and fiscal resources. Contact information for Q. Messer, (517)881-5861, messerq@michigan.org. The MEDC works closely to work with energy, transportation, and defense. It's a team effort.

B. Lindsay Clark, Senior Community Development Manager

L. Clark gave an MEDC Update presentation. A handout was provided to the group. The focus is on the place aspect. Her job is to help all of us in Region 3. Wants people to want to invest in the region. There is a RAP webinar coming up on November 13 at 1:30 P.M., link is <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/rap>. The MEDC is a cost gap tool. Also, it's reimbursement based. Get your applications submitted. Combine a subgrant application, including many small projects. Make your town amenity rich – what can be enjoyed as people walk through town? Things such as fire pits, benches, etc. Must have 50% match; have your sources in place. Some townships close to downtown could be eligible. Reach out to her to discuss the possibilities. L. Clark contact (231)260-2185 or clarkl3@michigan.org.

Chuck Donaldson, Managing Director for Regional Prosperity, covering Regions 3, 5 and 6. He joined the MEDC in 2017. He and the staff at the MEDC try to be accessible. Feel free to reach out to them. C. Donaldson contact (810)241-6658, donaldsonc2@michigan.org.

The meeting was paused for lunch and resumed at 12:45 p.m.

7. Guest Speakers (continued)

C. NEMCOG Staff/Agency Update

Doug Baum, Executive Director, next year we'd like to have the annual meeting at another location within the region. We wouldn't be here without our members. NEMCOG receives no federal or state funding. Our funding comes from our contracts for Master Plans, Recreation Plans, and projects with our partners such as MDOT, EGLE, MDOC, etc. That is how we stay alive and keep us available to service our region. Let D. Baum know if you have anything you need help figuring out or need our services and guidance. We are informed of many resources. D. Baum gave a presentation, and a copy was provided as a handout. Our region consists of 8 counties, plus 3 additional counties as part of the prosperity region. We provide a lot of services within the 3 additional counties south of our core region. We provide a wide variety of services such as planning, community & economic development, and Community Corrections. We only act as a supportive role for community & economic development.

Staff - we are currently looking for one planner. We have one offer out there. Not sure if it will be full-time or part-time, or if it will be 1 or 2 people.

As of today, all counties, cities and villages in our core region are members. I hope to get to each municipality to discuss service opportunities. Planning services is part of being a member. Communities call to ask questions. That's what we are here for. We get some grant funds to assist our communities. H. Runyan created a template on how to complete the application process. She knows the system very well.

N. Tucker

Transportation: Have been working with MDOT and transportation for over 20 years. We have 3 main programs: Rural Task Force, Asset Management and Transportation Planning, in effort to improve transportation in our region. Performs traffic counts, crash analysis, studies, and safety improvements.

Access Management: points to access that roadway, determine speed, driveways, and safety needs. Non-motorized work is now known as Active Transportation. Used to plan or construct trails. Transportation plan and assets. Rural Task Force – is for counties. NEMCOG management programs to keep and obtain funding. It keeps us very busy.

Materials Management: After the first of this year, the state put out new legislation. Not just solid waste, now Materials Management. It's a lengthy and busy process. Hope to have it done in 1.5-2 years, vs. the 3-year deadline we were given.

D. Cline

The summer Legislative Tours we did about 10 years ago, we will be doing them again next year. The Legislative Tour and Lake Huron Discovery Tour both were popular and will return in the coming year. Will travel up the route.

D. Baum

Housing: Alpena Target will be done in May. We have asked for funding to pick up where they left off. Not certain where it's going to go.

Landbank: Work to develop a multi-county landbank. It would be the first with Michigan Landbank. NEMCOG will be the boots on the ground.

JLUS: They asked us to apply for new funding to update the plan we did previously.

Albert Township and Greenwood Township Master Plan to include Emergency Services. It's a pilot program. Will see how it works out.

NEMCOG Bylaws: plans to update them this fiscal year.

EDA: Co-gen Plants were lost in Hillman and Lincoln. We will provide staff to help develop a plan. Consider working with the county, village, and township.

8. Public Comment

S. McLennan: NEMCOG does a tremendous amount of work. They are very valuable and is a great organization.

Don Edwards: NEMCOG gets better and better.

- 9. Adjournment/Next Meeting:** S. McLennan moved to adjourn the meeting. Yes all, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m. The next meeting is on December 19, 2024. If you'd be interested in hosting our annual meeting next October, please let us know. Thank you to our guest speakers from the MEDC. Thank you all for coming and supporting NEMCOG.