

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD

Friday, March 7, 2014
(Rescheduled from February 21, 2014)

- MEETING MINUTES - **With corrections as approved at the April 18, 2014 board meeting.**

Roll Call

Present: Mike Crawford, Antrim County; Don Tanner, Benzie County; Chris Christensen, Charlevoix County; Les Atchison (alternate), Emmet County; Larry Inman, GT County; Stuart McKinnon, Kalkaska County (arrived at 10:00); Melinda Lautner, Leelanau County; Richard Schmidt, Manistee County; Susan Rogers, Missaukee County; Les Housler, Wexford County.

Absent: None.

Staff present: Elaine Wood, Matt McCauley, Darla Rowland, Janie McNabb, Denise Culman.

Guests present: Sue Peters, WDB Vice Chairman; Roger Griner, Benzie County Commissioner.

Call to Order and introductions

Larry Inman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He introduced guest, Roger Griner, Benzie County Commissioner.

Approval of the Agenda

Larry asked for review and approval of the agenda. A motion and a second were made; M. Lautner asked to have the Beaver Island Retreat added to the agenda, and the motion was amended.

Motion by L. Housler, supported by D. Tanner to approve the amended agenda with the addition of Beaver Island Retreat. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes COG Board November 2013

Larry asked for approval of the minutes for November 1, 2013.

Motion by S. Rogers, supported by L. Housler, to approve the minutes of 11/01/13 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Election of officers for 2014

Larry asked the officers if they wanted to serve another year in their current positions before the meeting. Larry said he would like to serve as Chairman for 2014, and this would be his last year. Chris Christensen – Vice Chairman and Susan Rogers – Secretary/Treasurer said they would also like to serve in their current positions.

Motion by R. Schmidt, supported by M. Crawford, to elect the current officers for 2014: Larry Inman, Chair; Chris Christensen, Vice Chair; Susan Rogers, Secretary/Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Committee Report & Recommendations

- a. CEO evaluation report – Sue Peters, Vice Chair, Workforce Development Board
Larry went over the evaluation process that had been approved by the two boards, which was designed to solicit input from members of both boards using a survey tool. Sue then consolidated all the input, in preparation for a verbal report and conversation with Elaine by the Liaison Committee. Officers S. Rogers and C. Christensen also spoke briefly about the process. Sue gave a verbal report of the results and discussed the conversation that was held between the Liaison Committee and Elaine. Discussion ensued and questions were answered. M. Lautner requested a copy of the written evaluation. S. Peters explained that there was no written report provided to the CEO.
- b. Regional Prosperity Initiative review & update; c. Regional Prosperity Board transition & recommendations
Larry and Elaine went over the background of the initiative and the benefits. Elaine highlighted that Lansing's primary focus is "empowering locals to drive economic prosperity." The Liaison Committee members reported what was discussed at the committee meeting and presented their recommendations. An in-depth discussion took place. In summary, the NWMCOG entity will be kept intact, but the NWMCOG Board and Workforce Development Board will be combined into a Regional Prosperity Board with the addition of some other members. The NWMCOG Board will remain a sub-board that will be able to meet independently if desired. All program operations will take place through the affiliated private non-profit entity which will be re-named, and for which the Regional Prosperity Board will be the board of directors. Elaine reviewed the timeline for this process to take place during FY14.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by S. Rogers, to continue to move forward with the recommendations as presented by the Liaison Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

M. Lautner requested the minutes of the Liaison Committee. E. Wood said she will begin including all committee minutes in the board packets.

M. Lautner questioned why the community growth grants application that went out to local units of government contained a clause that projects in support of the Grand Vision would be given priority. M. McCauley stated that this was an error and apologized for not catching it before the document was mailed. He said the grant memo will be corrected and reissued immediately.

Financial Reports

Darla Rowland, Director of Finance & Quality Assurance, went over the Amended Budget and Expenditures FY 2014 (10/1/2013 – 9/30/2014) 10/1/2013 through 12/31/2013 and answered questions.

Motion by R. Schmidt, supported by M. Crawford, to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO's report

Elaine provided her CEO's report on various activities and issues related to the agency which are not on the board's agenda. She also reported on a couple of things that have taken place since the report went out. Questions were answered.

Workforce Development Board Report

a. Dashboard

Darla said the updated version for the Dashboard was on the table, and explain the report. Questions were answered.

b. Workforce Board appointments

Elaine reminded that appointing the regional representatives to the WDB is one of the functions of the NWMCOG Board. The WDB members being recommended for re-appointment are: Tino Breithaupt, Economic development; Doug Parkes, K-12 education; John Toth, and Clint Steel, Labor; Dave Pratt, Corrections; Eric Bachmann, Rehabilitation; Judy Ezop, Workforce Development Agency. Recommendation is to re-appoint for a two year term from 1/1/14 – 12/31/15. Questions were answered.

Motion by L. Housler, supported by R. Schmidt, to re-appoint the WDB members for two year term as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Youth Program Reports

Janie McNabb, Northwest MI Works Chief Operating Officer, gave a Power Point presentation reviewing all the youth programs. She explained the new JAG curriculum (Jobs for America's Graduates – an extensive, national job readiness curriculum), how it will be integrated into current youth programs, and the benefits it will provide. She went over some upcoming events and encouraged the board members to attend the Beaver Island Lighthouse School graduation ceremony in May.

Added: Beaver Island Retreat

Larry asked for M. Lautner's comments on the added agenda item. She questioned the feasibility of doing the retreat on Beaver Island, expressed concern for the cost of transportation and food when something could be done here on the mainland, and wondered about whether the absence of a facility cost offsets the transportation cost. Elaine and several board members discussed the reasons for this site being so good for a board retreat, plus appropriate in that it is one of our primary program sites. The retreat isn't on the calendar at this time - it is just being discussed as a possibility. Several board members who have attended a retreat on the island commented on their experience and said it was very beneficial.

Correspondence

Correspondence was included with the packet.

County round-table (over lunch)

The board members had discussion during lunch about various common interests relative to their counties.

Adjourn

Larry thanked everyone for attending and said the next meeting for COG Board will be April 18, 2014. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Culman

Denise Culman
Recording Secretary

Please
check off your name

Sign In Sheet

Council of Governments Board

- ☒ 1. Crawford, Mike..... Antrim County
- ☒ 2. Tanner, Donald..... Benzie County
- ☒ 3. Christensen, Chris Charlevoix County
- ☒ 4. Atchison, Les (alternate).... Emmet County
- ☒ 5. Inman, Larry..... Gr. Traverse County
- ☒ 6. McKinnon, Stuart Kalkaska County
- ☒ 7. Lautner, Melinda Leelanau County
- ☒ 8. Schmidt, Richard Manistee County
- ☒ 9. Rogers, Susan..... Missaukee County
- ☒ 10. Housler, Les..... Wexford County

Others - Sign In Here

#	Name	Organization
1	Roger Griner	Benzie County Commissioner
2	Sue Peters	Workforce Development Board Vice Chair
3	Matt McCauley	NWMCOG
4	Darla Rowland	NWMCOG
5	Janie McNabb	NWMCOG
6	Elaine Wood	NWMCOG
7	Denise Culman	NWMCOG
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