

**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                      A u g u s t   1 8 ,   2 0 1 0                      3 : 0 0 p . m .

**Minutes**

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Andrews, Cooper, DeBoyer, Heidemann, Lockwood, Murphy Sass, Secory, and Sheehy.  
Excused: Smith  
Absent: Tansky  
Citizens: None  
Staff: Kauffman, Diedrich, Floyd, Fulton, and Struck.

**2. Changes in Order/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

**Motion** by Lockwood, supported by Andrews to accept agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission**

None present.

**4. Comments/News from the Planning Commissioners and Staff**

Commissioner Sheehy:

Stated that the old Marysville High School is coming down at Michigan and Huron.

Commissioner Andrews:

Stated that the tallest and newest wind turbine in St. Clair County is up at Desmond Landing. It produces 10 kilowatts an hour. An average home uses 3.5 kilowatts.

Commissioner Sass:

Stated that the official transfer of the deed for the Light Station will be on September 2. In addition, Parks and Recreation have the approved the Woodsong County Park Master Plan. Work will begin shortly.

Commissioner Heidemann:

Announced that he attended the MAC Summer Conference and one of the vendors had a display of all the biodegradable products made from corn, potatoes, paper, and every typical throwaway you see at fast food restaurants. He could not help but think of our bioreactor and the fact that we need to encourage all fast food industries to think about going to biodegradable packaging.

He talked to a leading democrat from Oakland County and he is interested in seeing the bioreactor.

The building that will house the landfill gas equipment is up. DTE and the County have not signed all the final agreements regarding the equipment because DTE reduced their commitment to the county when they ran into problems with funding.

The leachate water treatment facility is coming along beautifully. Everything should be completed by January 2011. Septage is currently being accepted from septage haulers in St. Clair County.

Kimball Township and the Smiths Creek area have been notified by the State of Michigan of problems with some of their septage systems. The County is investigating ways to help them with hook up to the City of Port Huron sewage treatment plant.

Bill Kauffman:

Stated that he attended a meeting regarding the bioreactor and Oakland County is interested in using it as a concept for their landfill in Pontiac; which is a result of earlier discussions that Administrator Groden had with L. Brooks Patterson, Executive Director of Oakland County. There are some legal issues that must be dealt with first.

Commissioner Murphy:

Stated that we should be notifying haulers about the ability to dump their septage at the facility in Smiths Creek.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

A. July 21, 2010

**Motion** by Cooper, supported by Sass to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Acceptance of Communications**

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

**7. Financial Reports**

A. Report ending 07/31/2010

Kauffman gave an overview of the financial report and stated that overall we are doing okay.

There have been issues regarding reimbursement from SEMCOG. Apparently they have developed a new policy on when you have to submit the requests in a timely fashion. Staff is investigating to find out what the new policy is.

Since the agenda packet went out, we have received payment for services rendered from Marine City and Grant Township.

A graph of appropriations for the MPC was presented in the supplemental packet. Bill has requested staff to work with Administration and put together what our appropriation has been over the last couple of years, what was approved, and where it ended up at the end of the year.

**Motion** by Sheehy, supported by Lockwood to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Consent Agenda

### A. Casco Text Amendment - District Requirement re Medical Marijuana

*Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with the Casco Township Planning Commission and recommend approval of the proposed text amendment, subject to approval of the language by the township attorney. The regulation of land uses is a local issue that must be dealt with in a manner that is consistent with community planning goals, the desire of the public, and the guidance of the township attorney.*

### B. Casco Text Amendment – Special Approval Uses re Pawnshops

*Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with the Casco Township Planning Commission and recommend approval of the proposed text amendment to their Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment will allow Casco Township to promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the citizens of the township, and to establish reasonable and uniform regulations to prevent harmful locations and concentration of pawnbrokers. This amendment will strengthen their current ordinance through the addition of business classification and license requirements.*

### C. St. Clair Twp Text Amendment – Addition of Private Road Ordinance

*Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with the St. Clair Township Planning Commission and recommend approval of the proposed text amendments to their Zoning Ordinance which will allow St. Clair Township to permit Private roads as special approval uses.*

*While developing their own set of regulations was chosen over using the County Road Standards in an effort to cut down on the expense for township residents, staff further recommends that the township consider adopting the County Road Standards in addition to their own to avoid potential conflicts and accommodate future needs in their community more efficiently.*

D. Kimball Map Amendment – Residential to Commercial-1

*Staff recommends St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with Kimball Township Planning Commission and approve the requested rezoning, as presented.*

E. Kimball Map Amendment – Commercial/Residential to Agricultural

*Staff recommends approval of the application for the zoning map change because the proposed zoning is appropriate with the goals and objectives of the Township Master Plan. It will also bring the planned designation of the property into compliance as shown on the Township Master Land Use Plan Map. While the rezoning is not consistent with the Future Land Use designation of the County Master Plan, it is being rezoned as a much less intensive land use, which should not create any detrimental effects to the township.*

F. Kimball Text Amendment – Signs, Lighting and Livestock

*Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with the Kimball Township Planning Commission and recommend approval of the proposed text amendments*

**Motion** by Andrews, supported by Cooper to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Work Program Reports**

Trevor Floyd:

Provided an update on the FEMA maps. He is still receiving calls from residents trying to get their property removed from the floodplain program. He also received a call from Representative Pavlov's office who asked if we have any recommended engineers to do site assessments. Floyd advised that we cannot make recommendations.

Commissioner Murphy asked if there was a list of vendors available. There is not. Staff will look into this.

Kara Diedrich:

Stated that she is working on a St. Clair County Workforce Commuting Pattern project which she will have available at next month's meeting.

David Struck:

*Blueways Vision Project:* An update was provided to the commissioners as well as a short demonstration on how the project will interact with Google Earth.

Bill Kauffman:

*Hydrokinetic Project in the St. Clair River:*

Kauffman presented pictures and a short video on the hydrokinetic project by Vortex. The public relations firm the County is using sent out media releases and some Detroit news stations picked it up and ran a story on it.

*Land Bank Authority:*

Kauffman and Sheehy gave an update on the activities of the Land Bank Authority. Four properties were pulled from the County's auction, three (3) in Algonac and one in Marine City.

*Fall Planning Workshop*

There is thought about changing the format for the Fall Workshop. Normally we only have one topic that runs for two hours. We have had requests for more training and have talked about doing different tracts for the Fall Workshop with one covering the more urbanized area issues and one the rural issues. Staff is looking for input from the commissioners.

Items that were suggested:

- Two is good
- Look at "virtual workshops" where you can choose an area and communicate with other people attending. Messages are sent back and forth. It is scheduled like a regular conference over a one or two-day period.
- Look at the virtual workshop for the FEMA issues.
- Have DVD players available in different rooms with previous workshops running.
- Some potential participants are ruled out by only having one session.

**Motion** by Lockwood, supported by Sass to accept the Work Program Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

## **10. Chairperson's Report**

Chairman Murphy went over his report that was provided in the supplemental packet. Items covered included:

- Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) Practical Innovation Committee,
- EDSP Workforce and Education Committee,
- EDSP Emerging Market Committee,
- EDSP Communications Committee,
- Meeting with the Administrator and Board of Commissioner Chair which was not held,
- Privately owned satellites,
- Michigan's interest for borrowing for unemployment,
- MPC Staff assignments (to be covered later in the agenda), and
- Feasibility Study for Great Lakes Wind Farms.

**Motion** by Cooper, supported by Sheehy to accept the Chairman's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

## 11. Old Business

### A. County Index

No report was presented.

### B. Belle River Watershed Group Resolution and Letter of Transmittal

Resolution approving the Operating Agreement of the Belle River Watershed Advisory Group, and designating representatives of the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission to participate in the development of a Belle River Watershed Management Plan.

At their last meeting, the MPC appointed Marsden Murphy as the primary representative on this committee. He asked if anyone was interested in being an alternate for him. Commissioner Sass stated that he has worked on this with Clyde Township and would be happy to sit as the alternate.

**Motion** by Lockwood, supported by Heidemann to approve the resolution and letter provided in the agenda packet and add Tom Sass as the alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

## 12. New Business

### A. SCCOTS FY10 Transportation Improvement Project Amendment

#### 1. Letter of Support Bridge to Bay Trail – 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Military Extension

The St. Clair County Transportation Study (SCCOTS) Advisory Committee requests the Metropolitan Planning Commission, in its capacity as SCCOTS Policy Committee, approve a letter of support for the City of Port Huron project *Bridge to Bay Trail - 10th Street to Military Street extension*.

Kauffman gave an overview of the request for amendment to the TIP.

**Motion** by Cooper, supported by Lockwood to approve a letter of support for the City of Port Huron project 'Bridge to Bay Trail - 10th Street to Military Street extension' as presented. A roll call vote was taken and motion carried with Ayes: Andrews, Cooper, Heidemann, Lockwood, Murphy Sass, Secory, and Sheehy. Nays: None. Absent: Smith and Tansky.

### B. SEMCOG Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

*Staff recommends that the MPC agree to participate in the consortium subject to recognition of the value of smaller urban areas in the revitalization and long-term sustainability of the region.*

Kauffman gave an overview of the report in the agenda packet. SEMCOG is applying for a grant with HUD's 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program and can use existing federal grant programs as leverage. With that, they are requesting a letter of support for the grant request and asking communities to provide how much in dollars they have in related projects and tasks performed in support of the grant and a letter from the municipality that they do not have any outstanding civil rights violations.

There is some concern in that SEMCOG is applying for a \$5 million grant that should be used regionally. While it is understood that Detroit is the urban core and it must be strong in order for the region to succeed, not all the funds should be directed to Detroit as the other areas have urban regions as well.

If the MPC agrees to send the letter of support and finds in the future that SEMCOG is not meeting the needs of our area, then we can drop out of the consortium and let the granting agency know why we have dropped out.

This will require a substantial amount of work on the part of MPC staff for coordination, data gathering, and maintenance.

**Motion** by Heidemann, supported by staff to have Chairman Murphy sign the letter of support for the 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. Motion carried with all ayes.

C. Department Assignments and Priorities

Kauffman gave overview of staff report and matrix that was provided in the agenda packet and supplemental packet.

Over the past few months staff has become inundated with additional assignments or at least requests that we begin working on this project or that. While there are benefits to this, we realize that our efforts can quickly become so watered down that we lose effectiveness. In an effort to ensure that we are being effective and still addressing the hot issues, staff would like to engage the Commission in some discussions of who we are and what we are doing and where time is spent on various projects.

At the April meeting, the MPC did an exercise of the various projects and what they considered most important. Projects come to the department from the MPC, Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator, etc. We are at a point where we cannot accomplish everything assigned to us in a meaningful way with the resources we have. It is not anticipated that we will receive additional resources.

Commissioners are asked to look at the various projects and be prepared to discuss at the September meeting. Items commissioners wanted to have included in the chart were:

- If a project is linked to another project,

- If there is revenue received for the project,
- If this can be done by another agency,
- Relationship between projects, and
- Focus on moneymakers.
- What is the return on the investment?
- How can we work smarter (i.e., by directing people to the County Website or other Internet sites and not spending copious amount of time with specific entities/individuals)?
- What projects can be selectively abandoned (i.e., low value to community or if not mandated or funded considered dropping)?

In light of the fact that next month's meeting is expected to be quite long, it was the consensus of the commissioners that the meeting begin at 3:00 p.m., and that Consent Agenda be expanded to include the minutes and financial reports. As always, items can be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

### **13. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Cooper, supported by Sass to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sheehy, Secretary

Prepared by Dale Fulton, Office Manager