

**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 S e p t e m b e r 1 5 , 2 0 1 0 3 : 0 0 p . m .

Minutes

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

1. Roll Call

Present: Murphy, DeBoyer, Sass, Lockwood, Tansky, Heidemann

Excused: Andrews, Cooper, Secory, Sheehy, and Smith

Citizens: None

Staff: Kauffman, Donaldson, Eschenburg, Floyd, Fulton, and Struck

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

Consent agenda had expanded content. Motion by Lockwood, supported by Sass to accept the agenda as presented. Discussion took place and DeBoyer asked that the minutes be pulled from the consent agenda. Lockwood and Sass agreed to the amendment to the motion to pull the minutes from the Consent Agenda and place under 7C. Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

3. Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission

None present.

4. Comments/News from the Planning Commissioners and Staff

Commissioner Lockwood:

Stated that he attended the Downtown Association Conference in Bay City. It was a good conference and while they have a lot of enthusiasm, there isn't any money available to work with.

Commissioner DeBoyer:

Advised that the Clay Township DDA expires in April 2012. They had discussion about starting up again but do not have the funding available to work with.

Clay Township has received their spraying permit for Phragmites from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Environment.

Clay Township has signed an inter-local agreement with the Detroit Wayne County Port Authority and under the Homeland Security Act they will obtain enclosed ice boats that will carry 12 people. The boats will be owned by Clay Township and operated by Champion Ferry. The date of arrival of the boats is unknown at this time.

The boats will be launched from the Champion Ferry area. Several details still need to be worked out.

The fire on Russell Island started in the Yacht Club. In the end a fuel oil tank ruptured, three cottages and the yacht club were consumed. Clay Township Fire Department on the scene within seven minutes of the call being placed.

It has been suggested to the island residents that they have a barn on the island with some fire equipment available. Right now, the Fire Department is looking for grants to protect the residents on the island.

Algonac's City Treasurer/Clerk has resigned effective November 1.

Commissioner Sass:

Reported that Administrator Groden wants to transfer money from the Parks and Recreation millage to cover the 4-H program in Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). It would be approximately \$73,000. Parks and Recreation does not support this idea.

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved having architectural drawings continued to do geothermal HVAC for the Columbus Township Park.

Signs are being posted at the Fort Gratiot Light Station advising people of the dangerous current.

Quinn Evans, an architectural firm, will have a contract proposal on the Light Station on September 27. He will also supervise the testing of the Light Station tower.

Geoffrey Donaldson:

Stated that the Macomb County Water Quality Board met with representatives from Enbridge that operates some of the pipelines that run under the St. Clair River and pass through St. Clair County. They also had representatives from Shell that have pipelines crossing the river and county, as well as other entities. The discussion revolved around the pipelines and response plans.

Macomb County asked if we wanted to send a representative to the meeting. Planning Department could not participate ourselves due to staffing. The Office of Emergency Management has been working with the local congressional representatives to host a discussion here to find out what is there and get more information on operations for pipelines in St. Clair County and the response plans.

They also talked about the real time drinking water monitoring project and how private industry could be looked at for potential funding of the project.

Commissioner Tansky:

Stated that the college had their annual picnic at Goodells Park and approximately 300 people had attended. Many had not been to the park before.

SC4 is wrapping up their major changes to the parking lot and roofs where they are becoming more environmentally friendly by installing geothermal and green roofs.

Commissioner Heidemann:

Followed up on the 4-H program and money from parks and recreation. He does not feel that this was in the scope of what the millage was approved for in the county.

Regarding the Budget process – Administrator Groden agreed to have elected officials come up with five percent cuts in their budgets and he would double on the portion Admin was responsible for. Commissioner Heidemann felt that it should be equal.

The Sheriff's Office will have to come up with the majority of cuts as one of every six dollars goes to the jail.

As it relates to grants, some departments receive a lot of revenue by state and federal programs. The problem with that is the fact that there is usually a portion that has to be paid by the county. Something to consider is not to take the grants if they are not mandated services.

The County has a long way to go on the budget for 2011.

David Struck:

Advised the commissioners that the County was awarded 1.5 million dollars in NSP funds. This will be run through HUD, not MSHDA. We did not apply for the funds but was awarded based on the number of foreclosures.

Details are not available as yet.

Bill Kauffman:

Bill advised the members that they had passed out to them a letter from MSHDA regarding Income Verification Monitoring that was received just prior to the meeting. This work is done by the third party administrator, Community Action Agency.

We will be working with MSHDA to make sure everything is correct and advise the Board of Commissioners.

There will be a meeting next week with the economic development staff in Wayne County about us supporting their Aerotropolis program and their support for our airport. This is part of the regional economic development strategy the commissioners looked at last month.

We expect them to help us with discussions for the development of a potential port facility at the north end of the region.

Bill suggested Commissioner DeBoyer contact Congresswoman Miller's office for assistance in grants for fire departments. They have been helping communities find funding from the USDA Rural Development for fire departments.

Commissioner Murphy:

Provided the commissioners with information on the 200 MW Breckenridge wind farm in Michigan, USA, that is getting built. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) gave its approval for the 20-year power purchase agreement between Detroit Edison and Invenergy Wind, the developer of the wind farm. Detroit Edison is committing US \$1.1 billion to renewable energy this way.

The wind farm will feature 125 GE 1.6 MW wind turbines, covering about 30,000 acres of land near Breckenridge, Michigan. Completion of the project is expected in late 2011. Under the contract terms, Detroit Edison will be given the option to buy a stake in the project if the utility decides to do so at a later time.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. August 18, 2010 MPC Minutes – removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business, 7 C.
- B. Financial Report ending 8/31/10
- C. Communications
- D. Chairperson's Report

Motion by Lockwood, supported by DeBoyer to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Work Program Reports

Eschenburg stated that she will take delivery of the 2010 Aerial Flight photos on October 4. She will have 30 days to check and send back. She does not expect any problems.

Diedrich stated she will be attending a workshop next week.

She also reported that Planning Staff is coming together to make sure everything is covered since Michael Latuszek left.

Struck advised the commissioners of the Fall Farm Tour that will take Place on October 2. They added two additional farms this past week, one of which is a botanical park. There will be two local chefs doing cooking demonstrations using locally grown food at the Lauwer farm. In addition, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., people will be able to get a locally grown lunch for a small fee.

Kauffman asked if there were any questions regarding the financial report or the 2011 budget. No one had any questions.

Kauffman went on to say that the department heads will be making presentations to the Board of Commissioners on October 13 for their department budgets. In the meantime, Kauffman will meet with County Administration to talk over the presentation and the kind of information he will be looking for. Kauffman will be asking that the Planner III position be reinstated.

Question was raised on how it is handled when a department makes a cut that could affect another department and the work they do. Who is controlling the interdependencies?

Kauffman explained that the department heads do presentations to the Board of Commissioners and make clear that if you cut “this” position, this is what the implication would be. Certainly, department heads will have to work with one another; and in cases where more than one department is affected by a cut, they should make the presentation together to the Board of Commissioners.

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

7. **Old Business**

A. County Index

Tansky reported that he will talk to George Fulton from the University of Michigan.

B. Department Assignments and Priorities

A copy of the matrix was sent out to commissioners to review. Staff met today and narrowed the list down to those that were either mandated or part of the master plan. Within those, there were many items combined under one name. The revised list was passed out. It contained two columns, the first showing what work could be done with current staff and the second column, what additional work could be done if the vacant planner position is kept.

The assignments and priorities is something that will be looked at over several months.

Last week the Board of Commissioners (BOC) received some information from administration on the budget and the kind of proposed cuts he has in mind for his side of the general fund, which would include this department. Based on the reaction from the BOC, it appears as though they feel that providing local planning assistance is important, many communities depend on it, and they do not want to see us cut back.

Other areas covered under the assignments and priorities included GIS, what programs are linked together, mandated projects, and what projects could be done by another department or agency.

Commissioners were asked to look over the list, and decide what they think might be essential and what might not be essential. They were also asked to focus on ending activities, taking into consideration whether or not the project is mandated, or if it is something that can be put off until later or another agency could do. In addition, revenues generated needs to be taken into consideration.

Of those items that could be done by other departments or agencies, the commissioners need to identify their priorities and bring the various parties together to see importance of the program and see if they can take over the running of the particular program(s).

Economic development is prevalent and the BOC said this is something they want this department to get into more.

One of the key things with the list passed out at the meeting is what can be done if the Planner III position is not filled, and what can be done if his position is filled. Commissioners were asked to rank them from one (1) to three (3) with three being the higher priority.

Discussion took place on elimination of some programs. An example was given of the Water Quality Board. The board is appointed by the BOC and staffing provided by the Planning Department. At the inception, the Planning Department volunteered to head the project up, it was with the understanding that once someone was more qualified to do the work they would take over the program. In this case the Health Department has been involved and it is determined that they are better suited to head the project up.

Another example given was the Agricultural Preservation Board. At the time this was started there was state money available to put agricultural land in a preserve. That is no longer the case.

Discussion was held by the commissioners that items to consider included whether or not it was a revenue generator, mandated by the state or federal government, or if it created jobs. In addition, they thought it should be supported by the Planning Commission Mission Statement and/or County's mission statement.

The discussion ended with the commissioners being asked to keep notes and share with staff as soon as possible and discuss at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Heidemann had to leave the meeting. A quorum is no longer present.

C. Minutes

Commissioner DeBoyer stated that she was present at the August 18 meeting but it was not reflected in the attendance portion of the meeting minutes. Staff will make the

necessary changes and the minutes will be placed on the agenda for approval at the October 20, 2010 meeting.

8. New Business

MPC Checklist – commissioners were asked to complete and return the checklist to staff.

9. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 5:30. A quorum was not present for any additional action.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sheehy, Secretary

Prepared by: Dale Fulton, Planning Department's Office Manager