



# Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

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## Board Meeting Minutes

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, June 7, 2016  
**MEETING TIME:** 11:30 am  
**MEETING LOCATION:** Coldwater Administration Building  
1 Grand St, Coldwater, MI 49036

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Members Excused

- a. Hazelbaker made a motion to excused Dunn, Kale, Reid, and Seyburn.
  - i. Scott seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 3. Action: Approval of the Agenda

- a. R Baker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
  - i. Scott seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 4. Action: Approval of the Minutes

- a. Hazelbaker made a motion to approve the minutes with typographic revisions.
  - i. Carahaly seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 5. Citizen Comments

- a. None made.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Staff walked the board through the monthly statement. The newer members of the board had a few questions regarding the accounting method used and the format of the report.

### 7. Transportation/KATS Items

- a. KATS staff presented a report of their activities for the month of May. KATS staff also gave an overview of their work on behalf of SMPC for the benefit of the newer members of the board.
- b. Annual Work Program discussion
  - i. KATS and SMPC staff noted that the annual work program was reviewed by SMPC and KATS staff as well as a representative from MDOT.
  - ii. MDOT staff noted that funding was reduced to all regions due to a reduction in federal support.
  - iii. KATS and SMPC staff plan to combine several work elements to reduce the number of elements that have few expenses.
  - iv. The board had a few questions related to the work elements that may be combined.
- c. **Action:** KATS invoice

### 8. Discussion: Regional Prosperity Initiative

- a. Staff and some members of the Board gave an overview of the Regional Prosperity for the benefit of the newer members.
  - i. The Board discussed some of the long-term implication of RPI for SMPC. They especially focused on moving from tier one to tier two.
  - ii. Discussion regarding the details of tier two continued at length. No decisions were made.
- b. Staff also gave an update on the recent activities of the Region 8 Prosperity Committee.

### 9. Discussion: Update from the SMPC Sponsored Retirement Account Committee

- a. Staff gave an overview of activities conducted to resolve the outstanding retirement account issue.
- b. Staff noted that a lien was placed against SMPC by the Michigan State Department of Treasury. Staff, with the assistance of Chair Baker, resolved the lien without any ongoing issues.
- c. Staff will continue to work with counsel to resolve the retirement account issue.

**10. Discussion/Action: Kalamazoo River Water Trail**

- a. Staff noted that SMPC is participating in a grant application along with the Pottawatomie Resource and Development Council and the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council to create a recreation plan and elements of a land use plan for the Kalamazoo River. The recreation plan will ultimately culminate in the creation of a water trail for the Kalamazoo River. The water trail will cover the entire navigable portion of the river, approximately 120 miles.

**11. Staff Report/Other:**

- a. Calhoun County Transit
  - i. Staff and Ault informed the Board that SMPC is helping Calhoun County with the beginning elements of a county-wide transit assessment. Currently, Calhoun County does not have transit service beyond the Battle Creek area and on-demand service for select populations throughout the county.
- b. Kalamazoo County Master Plan/Responding to Proposals
  - i. SMPC staff submitted a proposal to Kalamazoo County. The County anticipated several other proposals from for-profit firms. Staff noted that it is traditionally the position of regional planning councils to not compete against for-profit firms. Staff wanted the board to voice their opinions on that stance.
  - ii. Board members expressed opinions in favor and against competing against for-profit firms. Thus, the board felt a time for a formal policy discussion was needed. Staff will research the issue and bring it back for discussion in August.
- c. Staff asked if the meeting time was still agreeable to the board members moving forward.
  - i. The board wanted to maintain the meeting time.
  - ii. The board discussed meeting attendance and how to increase it at future meetings.

**12. Board Member Comments**

- a. Carahaly gave an update on the Kalamazoo County's Master Plan re-write process. He also outlined the purpose of the plan and how it differs from other master plans.
- b. K Baker noted that Coldwater is also updating their master plan. He also noted that several SMPC member counties are participating in a housing target market analysis (TMA). The TMA results would be presents at various times and locations. K Baker was involved in the process. K Baker also noted that the City of Coldwater would look to SMPC to assist with the update to their DDA.

**13. Action: Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 PM

***Next Meeting: August 2, 2016***  
St. Joseph County Administration Building  
125 W Main St, Centreville, MI 49032