



# Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

300 South Westnedge Avenue · Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Phone: (269) 385-0409 · Fax: (269) 343-3308 · Email: adams@upjohn.org

## July Board Meeting Minutes

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, July 7, 2015  
**MEETING TIME:** 2:00 pm  
**MEETING LOCATION:** St. Joseph County Courthouse – History Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
125 W Main St, Centreville, MI 490

### 1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm.

### 2. Members Excused

- a. *Hazelbaker made a motion to excuse Amos, Dunn, and Shaffer.*
  - i. Seyburn seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 3. Action: Approval of the Agenda

- a. *Reid made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.*
  - i. Wheat seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 4. Action: Approval of the Minutes

- a. *Hazelbaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.*
  - i. Robey seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 5. Citizen Comments

- a. None were made.

### 6. Reimbursements and Invoices

- a. None were presented at the meeting.

### 7. Treasurer's Report

- a. The board reviewed the budget statement prepared by staff.
- b. A discussion about the CEDS and EDA's stance on SMPC ensued.
- c. *Hazelbaker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.*
  - i. Baker seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

### 8. Transportation/KATS Items

- a. KATS staff gave a verbal and written report of their activities since the last meeting.
  - i. KATS staff noted that work on PASER ratings continued which sparked a discussion among the board and KATS staff. The board was interested in the rating process and results.
- b. **Action:** FY 2016 Regional Work Program
  - i. KATS staff and SMPC staff outlined the main points of the work program. The vast majority of the work program is the same as last year. A few dollars were moved from technical assistance to local units to technical assistance to MDOT, funds were set aside for SMPC staff to administer the program.
  - ii. A discussion regarding the FY 2015 Work Program budget was sparked by the review of the FY 2016 Work Program.
  - iii. A question regarding the Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Plan was asked. Staff noted that the plan is available at MDOT's website.
  - iv. *Reid made a motion to approve the FY 2016 Regional Transportation Planning Work Program.*

1. Byrnes seconded the motion.
2. **The motion carried.**

**9. Discussion: Regional Prosperity Initiative**

- a. SMPC staff led a discussion of the progress made on the Regional Prosperity Initiative.
  - i. The most recent meeting was focused on infrastructure.
    1. A survey of infrastructure oriented organizations was conducted and the results were presented at the meeting.
    2. An inventory of infrastructure assets was conducted and displayed at the meeting.
    3. Meeting participants gave feedback on the survey results and inventory as well as identified areas in which RPI could focus and fund projects.
  - ii. The board discussed staff's presentation as well as broadband issues and MDOT's regions.

**10. Discussion: Water Trails**

- a. Staff wanted to give an in-depth update on this discussion but the meeting around the water trail was postponed. A more detailed update will be given at the August meeting.

**11. Action: Pennfield Township Recreation Plan**

- a. SMPC was chosen as the contractor to create a recreation plan for Pennfield Township. Staff noted that the proposal presented encouraged regional cooperation between nearby municipalities. SMPC was one a few potential contractors.
- b. Pennfield Township is located in Calhoun County.
- c. A board member brought up a couple of legal questions about minor provisions in the agreement. The board felt that there was no reason to attempt to amend the contact at this point.
- d. Some board members felt that it would be wise to notify the local press of the project and the work SMPC does.
- e. *Wheat made a motion to approve the contract between Pennfield Township and SMPC for the creation of a 5-year recreation plan.*
  - i. Reid seconded the motion.
  - ii. **The motion carried.**

**12. Staff Report/Other:**

- a. Homer Township
  - i. SMPC staff gave an update on the progress towards completing the Master Plan for Homer Township.
- b. St. Joseph County
  - i. Staff provided reviews of local ordinances for St. Joseph County and will bill them accordingly.
  - ii. Staff noted that Lon Huffman resigned from the SMPC board and the county is seeking his replacement.

**13. Board Member Comments**

- a. Robey was interested in the process of engaging SMPC services and wanted clarity on how local leaders could contact SMPC staff.
  - i. A discussion about TIF ensued.
- b. Baker mentioned that SMPC staff attend the Branch County Planning Commission.
- c. Baker also mentioned that plans for a non-motorized plan between Coldwater and Quincy. He felt that SMPC could assist with the effort.

**14. Action: Adjournment**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 3:05