



Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

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Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 1, 2017
MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
MEETING LOCATION: W.E. Upjohn Institute
300 South Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 11:33 am.

2. Members Present

- a. Carahaly, Frisbie, Hazelbaker, Kale, McGraw, Pangle, Seyburn

3. Members Excused

- a. Baker was excused from the meeting.

4. Action: Approval of the Agenda

- a. *Kale made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.*
 - i. The motion was seconded by Pangle.
 - ii. **The motion carried.**

5. Action: Approval of the Minutes

- a. *Pangle made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.*
 - i. The motion was seconded by Frisbie.
 - ii. **The motion carried.**

6. Citizen Comments

- a. None made.

7. Financial Report

- a. Staff presented the monthly financial report at meeting. The board had a few questions about the fund balance and the amount of legal expenses and staff time devoted to the retirement account investigation.

8. Transportation/KATS Items

- a. KATS staff provided a written and verbal report of activities conducted on behalf of SMPC since May.
 - i. The bulk of the work was related to conducting PASER ratings and entering them into the state database.
 - ii. Staff administered the coordination of project prioritization as part of the rural task force work.
- b. **Action:** Q3 Invoices from KATS
 - i. *Pangle made a motion to approve the KATS invoices.*
 - 1) The motion was seconded by Kale.
 - 2) **The motion carried.**

9. Discussion: Talent Match

- a. W.E. Upjohn Institute Staff gave a presentation on the Talent Match project supported by RPI funding.
- b. The board had many questions regarding the presentation.
- c. The presentation can be found here: <http://smpcregion3.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/6-1-17-RPI-Meeting-TM-Presentation.pdf>

10. Discussion/Action: Economic Development District Status Application

- a. Outlined the relationship that many regions have with the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration; the regional organization are called “District Organizations. Staff would like to apply for District Organization.
- b. The board had a few technical questions regarding the relationship and history of EDA in our region.
- c. *Seyburn made a motion to authorize staff to prepare materials related to a request for District Organization status and to authorize the chair to sign a resolution of support and other necessary documents for the application.*
 - i. The motion was seconded by Frisbie.
 - ii. **The motion carried.**

11. Discussion/Action: Michigan Economic Development Corporation Partnership

- a. The MEDC seeks a relationship with SMPC to provide technical assistance to local communities wishing to go through the Redevelopment Ready Communities program.
- b. *Frisbie made a motion to authorize staff to enter a contract with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide assistance with the Redevelopment Ready Communities program.*
 - i. The motion was seconded by Pangle.
 - ii. **The motion carried.**

12. Discussion: Update from the SMPC Sponsored Retirement Account Committee

- a. Staff gave an overview of activities conducted since the June meeting. The board discussed the activities in detail but made no formal decisions.

13. Discussion: Regional Prosperity Initiative

- a. Staff noted that the Committee decided to focus its funding on education this year and bolster existing organizations doing good work. Staff for the group will develop an RFP with a subcommittee’s input at its meeting on Thursday (8/3).

14. Staff Report/Other:

- a. MAR Annual Meeting
 - i. Carahaly and Staff gave a verbal report on the meetings.
 - ii. SMPC will host the annual meeting in 2018.
- b. Brady Township
 - i. Staff noted that he provided technical assistance to Brady Township. The Township is in the process of updating their master plan.
- c. Lockport Township
 - i. Staff noted that work continues on their master plan. The project should wrap up towards the end of the year.
- d. Albion City
 - i. Staff and Upjohn Institute staff helped lead city leaders through their economic strategic planning process. Staff will continue to provide technical assistance and possibly provide assistance with the update of their zoning ordinance.
- e. Regional Brownfield
 - i. Staff noted that several of the partner county brownfield authorities were supportive but not enthusiastic about a regional brownfield application. Additionally, some expressed concern regarding the mechanics of the application and administration of the grant funds.
- f. Barry County
 - i. Staff noted that it received a notice from the EDA that it modified the Economic Development District to move Barry County to the district to the north. The board discussed Barry County’s presence in our MDOT region.

15. Board Member Comments

- a. None made.

16. Action: Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.