



Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

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August Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 4, 2015
MEETING TIME: 2:00 pm
MEETING LOCATION: Calhoun County Administration Building – 3rd Floor HR Conference Room
315 Green St, Marshall, MI 49068

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:18.

2. Members Excused

- a. Excused: Baker, Dunn, Shaffer, Wheat; two vacancies (Amos, Huffman)
- b. Present: Byrnes, Frantz, Geiger, Hazelbaker, Reid, Robey, Seyburn
- c. *Reid made a motion to excuse those members not present.*
 - i. Robey seconded the motion.
 - ii. **The motion carried.**

3. Action: Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Action: Approval of the Minutes

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

5. Citizen Comments

- a. Kelli Scott mentioned Calhoun County's experience and issues with recycling throughout the county. Board members appreciated the comments and noted that staff and the Regional Prosperity Initiative will examine the issue. Other members of the Calhoun County staff outlined the problem in greater detail.

6. Invoices

- a. None

7. Treasurer's Report

- a. *Staff walked the board through the monthly statement.*
- b. *The board liked the format of the report but wanted some changes to the numbers displayed. Staff will work on creating an easier to follow format.*
- c. *Byrnes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.*
 - i. Seyburn seconded the motion.
 - ii. **The motion carried.**

8. Transportation/KATS Items

- a. KATS Staff gave a verbal and written update to the board.
- b. KATS is working with the State on the Transit Asset Inventory
- c. KATS is working with local units on the collecting PASER ratings and uploading them to the statewide database.
- d. The board had a couple questions pertaining to the realignment of the MDOT regions. No new information was available at that time.
- e. *Reid made a motion to approve the invoice submitted by KATS.*

- i. Hazelbaker seconded the motion.
- ii. **The motion carried.**

9. Discussion: Regional Prosperity Initiative

- a. Staff gave a verbal update of the Regional Prosperity Initiative.
 - i. Staff outlined the project areas selected by the Infrastructure Subcommittee.
 - 1. Expansion of I-94
 - 2. Expansion of regionally significant trails
 - 3. Improved coverage of broadband access
 - 4. Regional recycling
 - 5. Sewer and water mapping
 - ii. The board had a few questions about project areas selected by the Infrastructure Subcommittee.
- b. Staff outlined the project selection process and noted that SMPC will submit proposals for some projects.
- c. A discussion around broadband access ensued.
- d. Staff also mentioned the possibility of a “soft merger” between SMPC and SWMPC. This board discussed this possibility and the implications.

10. Discussion: Water Trails

- a. Staff gave an update on the water trail project. The packet included the materials distributed at the water trail meeting.
- b. The plan is to have a cohesive strategy for the areas around the river. The goal is to have a unified land use, recreation, and economic development strategy for the river.
- c. Staff mentioned that a team of grad students from the University of Michigan could possibly write the plan for the river. We would need to cover travel and meeting costs

11. Discussion: Regional Food System Grant(s)

- a. Staff outlined the regional food system grant applications submitted to the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture and the RPI.
- b. A committee under Southwest Michigan First has been tasked with looking into quantifying and mapping the food system in Southwest Michigan.
- c. The board discussed the possibilities and details of the potential project.

12. Staff Report/Other:

- a. St. Joseph County
 - i. Staff gave an update on the work completed for St. Joseph County and noted that funds were received.
- b. Lidar Grant Coordination (USGS)
 - i. Staff noted that it is assisting Kalamazoo County connect with other counties to develop a regional grant application to develop Lidar data.

13. Board Member Comments

- a. Geiger mentioned that a map of the municipalities contacted by staff would be helpful.

14. Action: Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07