



Southwest Michigan Prosperity Initiative

June 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Rachel Wade	Present (phone)
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MEMBER	MARCH 2019
Caitlyn Berard	Present (phone)
Jill Bland	Unexcused
Jakki Bungart-Bibb	Unexcused
Vince Carahaly	Present
Michael Evans	Present
Ken Flowers	Unexcused
Joanna Johnson	Present
Bridgette Jones	Present (phone)
Pat Karr	Present
Shane Kissack	Unexcused
Amy Lipset	Present
Angela Little	Unexcused
Bob Miller	Unexcused
Deb Miller	Present
Zach Morris	Unexcused
Richard Remus	Present
Mark Reynolds	Unexcused
Tom Richardson	Present (phone)
Barbara Rose	Unexcused
Jon Start	Present

Location: Upjohn Institute, Kalamazoo

Also Present: Lee Adams, John Egelhaaf, John Krsul, Jr. (The Pokagon Fund), Ylana Padgett (SWMPC).

1. 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Michael Evans called the meeting to order. Quorum established; seven members at start of the meeting (seven members required). Committee member introductions made.

2. 2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved following a motion by J. Johnson and support by R. Remus, unanimous consent.

3. 3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

4. Public Comments

Chair Carahaly invited public comments from the floor. None provided.

5. Report from Subcommittees

- Workforce and development – staff update
 - Has been shuttered until further allocated funding
 - No current well-defined direction from this group in terms of projects, funding will be reallocated
 - Some was decided to be rolled into the micro grant budget and spread out over the areas of focus
- Community development
 - **Main direction** was to focus on housing
 - Tool kit proposed scope of work included in packet –



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- Determined it was better to put together a tool kit to apply to individual communities which will contain data, research best practices, and a housing feasibility model which will look at what is feasible based on the resources available
- Work with local governments to determine what will work best for them
- **Questions:**
 - What will the deliverable of the toolkit be? A: The main deliverable will be the toolkit and will help local governments develop their plans
 - Where is the tool kit housed? A: The Upjohn institute has agreed to update the feasibility portion
 - When will the tool kit be available? A: The last phase will wrap up in December of 2019.
- Upjohn Staff will do the work and work with people who understand the housing nonprofit world to make sure Upjohn understands all aspects.
 - During phase 2 there will be discussion with housing developers and bankers.
 - Want to look at all aspects of the housing ecosystem to understand all parts of it.
- Roughly \$32,000 to go to housing modeling software, the rest is for data collection and best practice research (looking at others around the country and seeing how that can be applied to this here).
- Currently working on solidifying **housing partners**. Fair amount of momentum because players have already coalesced.
 - Being able to provide a list will help make this more convincing – problem is there are many of them
 - Discussion on expressed concern on whether the project will achieve goals.
 - Important to ensure that sources are promoting all areas in the whole ecosystem.
 - Discussion on ensuring this project is not duplicating another effort
 - Not a concern to Lee due to outreach and response he has experienced.
- Discussion on budget concern – reducing the cost to local counties by providing the toolkit.
- Thirteen counties to our north want to participate in the study as well. The toolkit will primarily be assembled for our seven counties. However the counties in west Michigan will also be provided with a version of the kit that can work for them. They will provide an additional \$10,000.
- **Goal discussion**
 - The tool kit will provide at least the first half of the housing planning process.
 - Prototype plan.
 - Want each local area to define their own goals and be able to provide them with the best foundation possible
- Rachael Wade call in –
 - Asked by multiple people about the best way to deal with affordable housing in the working class. This plan is exactly what they would need to do that before they pull together any agency to talk about the reality of the housing system from low



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subsidized housing up to the high-end upper-class housing. Need to be looking at it as a whole. This data will be important.

- A collective approach: county by county to ensure that housing development for one city doesn't cause housing issues for another city.
- Where is **data** coming from
 - people and databases
 - need qualitative and quantitative data
- How to deal with zoning plans impeding.
 - There will be a tool to deal with this issue – what are the barriers present: Local ordinances can be a barrier
- Proposed Changes:
 - Request for feedback throughout the process – ensure that there is quality control

Motion for approval of housing tool kit proposal by M. Evans, Remus supported the motion.

Unanimous approval.

- Infrastructure Subcommittee Discussion
 - Egelhaaf provided details of progress to date
 - There are two pieces of asset management – addendum proposal to main DTMB RPI application. Infrastructure asset management in addition to main RPI funds.
 - Identified infrastructure asset management as a need and applied for a grant.
 - Once award was made, the state wanted us to move along with them to make sure the regions are synced up.
 - **2019 summits (spring and fall)**
 - Spring will be **June 12** in Van Buren from 9-11:30 and then at Road Commission of Kalamazoo County from 2:00 - 4:30
 - Assembly of invitation list two tiers – 1st is transportation, energy, and water, 2nd is municipal.
 - 30 registered in Lawrence and 40 in Kalamazoo.
 - Johnson helped send invitations.
 - Timing of second summit is to coincide with deliverable from the regions and MIC report
 - Johnson reported
 - Initiative across the state -- trying to gather people in order to discuss ways to work together
 - There has been positive feedback
 - Breaks people in to groups
 - **Goal** is for feedback to be funneled back to regions. Primarily looking at the coordination of projects and what that will look like. Summits will help.

6. Financial Report – FY 2019 Budget Revision



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- Priorities discussion
- Staff has restructured the budget
- Funding for next year is \$0
 - There may be funding available if the legislature takes it up – place holder in the senate budget
 - Likely no state funding
- Budget
 - Staff Comments
 - Egelhaaf – proposed revision changes: indicated some changes from original budget. One version was reproduced, open to critique, and revised by the Executive Committee.
- Rollover funding into 2020
 - How will rollover happen? – distribution of micro budgets/ how far do we want to plan for
 - M. Evans stated that we need more information, it would be premature to have this discussion of planning for roll-over for 2020. September can be a time for further discussion
 - Overall sentiment is to wait until September to discuss further.
 - Request to outline the budget in footnotes. (ADENDUM) – A. Lipset request

Motion for approval of revised FY 2019 budget by M. Evans, motion supported by R. Remus. Unanimous consent.

- Micro grants Application process discussion
 - The application has been through critique and edit – an attempt to create an easy to follow process for applicants
 - The ceiling for micro-grant funding raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to have opportunity to be more robust to fit focus areas better through the grants
 - Allows for flexibility in responding to opportunities
 - Three pages total for an application
 - Ready to be published and available
 - Those in RPI will be directly notified
 - Questions and further discussion:
 - Discussion on how to communicate expectation of application and reception process
 - No local match is required or requested
 - Application cutoff date with September meeting – change date to be earlier
 - What will review process look like – motion to discuss applications at the meeting in September
 - Sentiment reflects the desire for a singular deadline so that all applications can be reviewed together during the September meeting.
 - Mid August dated targeted. Exact date to be determined



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- Link to plan in application
- Need for longer meeting time in September to review applications. The meeting time was changed for September to 1-4pm
 - No interest in forming a subcommittee for application review.

J. Johnson moved to approve the Micro-Grant materials, A. Lipset seconded, Unanimous approval.

7. Committee Member Comments

No committee member comments.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next Meeting: September 5 from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director, SWMPC.