



Southwest Michigan Prosperity Initiative

September 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

Location: Upjohn Institute, Kalamazoo

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

1. 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Carahaly called the meeting to order. Quorum established; Committee member introductions made.

2. 2. Approval of Agenda

There were no objections to the approval of the agenda.

3. 3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were distributed at the meeting. J. Johnson moved to approve, M. Evans supported, approved by unanimous consent.

4. Public Comments

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

5. Report from Subcommittees

- Community development
The Upjohn Institute has begun work on the housing toolkit. Four-hundred examples of best practices are being reviewed. The contract with EcoNorthwest has been executed. By the end of October EcoNorthwest should be done with the calibration of their model. The toolkit completion target is the end of January 2020.

The report was kept brief so that the Microgrant approval process could be allotted ample time.

- Infrastructure Subcommittee Discussion



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The summary of the spring Infrastructure Asset Management Summit notes are available at the Michigan Infrastructure Council's website. Fall summit plans were shared. The southwest Michigan fall Infrastructure Asset Management Summit will be held November 12th.

The committee report was also kept brief so that the Microgrant approval process could be allotted ample time.

6. Microgrant Process

Conflict of interest issues were discussed. The need to be aware of potential conflicts were mentioned. Also quorum standards were mentioned. Abstention options were raised as well. The bottom line is that there aren't bright lines for abstention. Amy Lipset discussed her closeness to the Marquette Greenway application in the details of execution but no direct benefit would be received in the event that application was awarded. Rachel Wade also expressed her position vis-a-vis the Be Healthy Berrien application. Thus, two board members have abstained from voting (Evans and Wade).

Issues of the wind-down of SWMPI were discussed. The first quarter of 2020 will be the projected conclusion of the toolkit project. Remaining funding will be addressed at a future date. A December meeting fits our cadence for 2019 and will still be held. A second round of micro grants may still be issued.

Four members completed the online survey ranking tool. A Lipset observed that there are potentially three silos: trails, workforce, other. The approach of the group was to sort out the applications at the bottom of the list first. R Remus noted that some of the applications are from applicants that the SWMPI has funded before. He expressed his favor for applicants that haven't been funded before. Lipset noted that some applications may be unique enough to be an innovative project that could be reproduced elsewhere. J Johnson expressed her concern about changing the "rules of the game" from what was distributed in the grant guidance. She advocated for asking each member's top five applications.

Top applications:

Amy - Literacy Council, KRESA STEM, Upjohn, St Joseph County, SWCRR
Ken - Literacy Council, Upjohn, KRESA YOU, KRESA STEM, MI Works SW
Joanna - SWCRR, Literacy Council, MI Works, WMU SCORE, St. Joseph County
Rich - St. Joe County, Veterans, Literacy Council, SWCRR, KRESA YOU
Pat - Upjohn, KRESA YOU, Literacy Council, WMU SCORE, St. Joseph County
Vince - Upjohn, Literacy Council, SWCRR, KRESA YOU, KRESA STEM

The top 5 projects:

Literacy Council
KRESA YOU
SW Childcare Resources
St. Joseph County
Upjohn



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Second Tier
KRESA STEM
MI Works SAFE
WMU
Veteran's Affairs

Johnson moved to fully fund all projects ranked in the top two tiers by the Committee, Lipset seconded the motion, Evans and Wade abstained, remaining members unanimous aye votes.

Next Steps

Evans noted that there are still applications remaining. The trails applications are an example of a category of applications that might provide more detail for their projects. Staff will notify successful applicants and those who were not. K Flowers found it difficult to measure/quantify/evaluate trail proposals. A suggestion was made to allow the community development committee handle the distribution of the remaining funds in the Community development pot. In December, the SWMPI will have a better understanding of the remaining funds.

7. Committee Member Comments

No committee member comments.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Next Meeting: December 5 from 2:30-4:00 pm.

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