



Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

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Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 24, 2024
MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
MEETING LOCATION: Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
4400 S 26th St
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 11:40am
2. Representative Attendance
 - a. Bomba
 - b. Carahaly
 - c. Combs
 - d. Coney
 - e. Drost
 - f. Gisler
 - g. Hazelbaker
3. Representatives Excused
 - a. Frisbie
4. Staff in Attendance
 - a. Adams
 - b. Nagler
 - c. Pittelko
5. Others in Attendance:
 - a. Rachel Grover, Kalamazoo County Director of Planning
6. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Hazelbaker made a motion to approve the agenda.
 - b. Bomba seconded the motion.
 - c. **The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**
7. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Coney made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Gisler seconded the motion.
 - c. **The motion carried.**
8. Public Comment
 - a. Grover mentioned that Petz helped the County host a discussion around housing planning for smaller municipalities. Grover also wanted to discuss the upcoming materials management planning work in the region.
9. Transportation
 - a. KATS staff gave a verbal report on activities during the past quarter.
 - b. 2025 Transportation Work Program
 - i. Combs made a motion to approve FY 2025 Regional Transportation Work Program.
 - ii. Drost seconded the motion.
 - iii. **The motion carried.**
10. Update on EDA Relationship and Work

- a. Staff provided an update on the work between meetings. A brief discussion with the board ensued. Staff will bring more concrete information regarding the fiscal consequences of moving towards independence.

11. EPA Regional Brownfield Grant

- a. Petz provided an update on the work. The grant funds are almost fully expended. The board discussed potentially applying for funds again. Staff will look into that possibility.

12. Staff Report/Other

- a. Update on Planning Work
 - i. St. Joseph County Joint Plan
 - 1) Staff noted that the work is continuing and expected to wrap up towards the end of the year.
 - ii. Constantine TIF
 - 1) Work continues on this project as well. The committee meets infrequently so the work is moving forward at a slow pace.
- b. Materials Management
 - i. Grover started a discussion about the changes to state legislation and the changes from Solid Waste to Materials Management. Grover also gave an update on Kalamazoo County's plan. Bomba gave an update on the work happening in Calhoun County. Adams gave an update on the potential joint plan with Branch and St. Joseph County.
- c. Annual Report
 - i. The board reviewed the annual report and provided feedback. Staff will incorporate the board's suggestions and distribute the report to municipalities in the region.

13. Representative Comments

- a. Bomba – Calhoun County Parks Millage ballot language was approved. The county-wide transit ballot language was also approved.
- b. Gisler – Kalamazoo County Senior Millage is up for renewal. The County Justice Center will be dedicated on September 7. The CTE Center will open in the fall of 2025.
- c. Hazelbaker – a battery storage company is interested in locating near Coldwater.
- d. Drost – There is a good deal of interest in a wastewater treatment facility in Park Township.
- e. Coney – also has interest from a battery storage company in Storage. Sturgis also has a ballot proposal for urban chickens. Lots of construction is happening in downtown Sturgis. Mostly road and housing construction and housing.
- f. Combs – Kalamazoo Township has found zoning ordinance issues with higher and neighboring authorities. They are going to dig into it.

14. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm.