



Minutes

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting held in person at Van Buren Conference Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Doroh, Kurt, Chair, Van Buren County Commissioner
Curran, Jim, Vice Chair, Berrien County Commissioner
Preston, Linda, Secretary, Cass County Representative
Sinclair, Kim, Treasurer, Van Buren County Representative
Catherman, Rick, Van Buren County Representative
DeLong, Don, Cass County Representative
Dodd, James, Cass County Representative
Durm-Hiatt, Marge, Berrien County Representative
Engle, Roger, Van Buren County Representative
Freehling, Teri Sue, Berrien County Commissioner
Gundersen, Kristen, Alternate Secretary, Berrien County Representative
Hanson, Sandra, Alternate Treasurer, Van Buren County Representative
Leary, Tina, Van Buren County Representative
Multhauf, Katie, Van Buren County Economic Development Ex-Officio
Pantaleo, Paul, Berrien County Representative
Patterson-Gladney, Gail, Van Buren County Commissioner
Stauffer, Dick, Berrien County Representative
Torzynski, Robert, Pokagon Band Representative
Tyler, Doug, Cass County Representative
Wuerfel, Julie, Berrien County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Fette, Dan, Berrien County Representative
Marchetti, Roseann, Cass County Commissioner
Wood, Gary, Berrien County Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kurt Doroh called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Office Manager, Maria Vettraino took roll call, and a quorum was present.

2. ACCEPTANCE AND/OR REVISION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Doroh presented the Consent Agenda. Teri Sue Freehling moved to **“ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.”** James Dodd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Egelhaaf presented the Executive Director’s Report and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Doug Tyler inquired about the audit firm chosen. Director Egelhaaf shared we have moved forward with Lauterbach & Amen for our 2023 and 2024 audit.

Discussion then ensued on the EGLE Coastal Zone Management Program Grant for Coastal Resilience.

Chair Doroh encouraged the Board to look at the positions available on the Materials Management Planning Committee. It is important for the development of the Materials Management Plan over the coming years that a Planning Committee be in place that satisfies the requirements from EGLE and those established by the three counties.

Doug Tyler asked for an update on Palisades. Director Egelhaaf explained how it was originally a three-year project for an economic recovery strategy, which now has been extended for six months. This extension is to implement the plan developed and get the economic recovery specialists engaged in the implementation. Chair Doroh said licenses are getting approved to move forward and Holtec is currently hiring. Katie Multhauf shared Market One has been hired to create workshops for the hiring process.

Teri Sue Freehling inquired on updates with Amtrak Pere Marquette. Director Egelhaaf explained MIO has approved this project for technical assistance and we have submitted a grant application for federal CRISI funding.

Linda Preston moved to **“ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.”** Gail Patterson-Gladney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. 2023 SWMPC ANNUAL REPORT

Paul Pantaleo moved to **“APPROVE 2023 SWMPC ANNUAL REPORT.”** Marge Durm-Hiatt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. PLANNER PRESENTATION

Herding Transportation Projects

Transportation Planner, Brandon Kovnat, presented on herding transportation projects. Kovnat shared how federal funding is allocated to local road agencies and

how projects are chosen and approved. This included details on the Call for Projects timeline, project prioritization criteria, integrating strategic planning and asset management principles, programming into JobNet, creating the TIP document, tracking progress and funding, and the project amendment process.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chair Doroh reminded the Board our next meeting will be held at Lawrence Township Hall.


Teri Sue Freehling wants communities to be aware the transportation Call for Projects is happening now for 2026-2029. Brandon Kovnat encouraged people to reach out to their county's Road Department.

Dick Stauffer commented on the new sound walls at exit 23 and how they seem to be effective.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Teri Sue Freehling moved to adjourn the meeting. James Dodd supported the motion. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by:



K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: June 18, 2024