



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

MACC POLICY COMMITTEE

February 23, 2009

City of Zeeland

(Herman Miller Community Center)

12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Policy Board

- Blaine Koops, Chair
- Thun Champassak
- Rosemary Ervine
- Hannes Meyers, Jr.
- William Vanderbilt
- Howard Baumann, Jr.
- Terry M. Burns
- Terry Hofmeyer
- Lester Hoogland
- John Kleinheksel
- Dal McBurrows
- Albert McGeehan
- Al Myaard
- Terry Nienhuis
- Keith Potter
- Amanda Price
- Gord Schrottenboer
- Russ Te Slaa
- Dave Vander Kooi
- Todd Wolters

• Executive Committee

PRESENT: Blaine Koops, Hannes Meyers, Jr., Bill Vanderbilt, Howard Baumann, Terry Burns, Les Hoogland, John Kleinheksel, Dal McBurrows, Kurt Dykstra (for Al McGeehan), Al Myaard, Terry Nienhuis, Keith Potter, Amanda Price, Gordon Schrottenboer, Russ Te Slaa, Dave VanderKooi, Todd Wolters

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Redmond, Rep. Joe Haveman, Jodi Syens, Aaron Deiter, Steve Bulhuis, Mary Fales, Beth McDonald, Elisa Hoekwater, Stephanie Beyer

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes –Following self-introductions, **a motion was made by Amanda Price and supported by Gordon Schrottenboer to approve meeting minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion carried.**

II. Macatawa Watershed Project

A. Sediment Load Sampling Grant Proposal – Beth McDonald presented information regarding a two year grant being offered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for water quality monitoring projects under the Clean Michigan Initiative-Clean Water Fund (CMI-CWF). Mary Fales, Graham Peaslee, from Hope College, and Beth have worked together on a proposal seeking funding to monitor the suspended sediment load of various tributaries within the Macatawa Watershed using a relatively new and innovative approach. Hope College will construct and lab test the proposed sampling method prior to Jennifer Soukhome, high school teacher at Zeeland High School, developing a sampling protocol.

The total amount of grant funds requested was \$32,168.48. Total amount of local match provided was \$18,482.91. Hope College provided the overwhelming majority of the match in the form of faculty time and student research positions. The MACC has provided approximately \$5,000 of the match in the form of staffing and grant administration. A copy of the proposal was included in the Policy Agenda packet for review.

B. Other Activities – Mary Fales provided information regarding the newly formed Agricultural Outreach Committee and Watershed Planning Committee. An invitation to participate was mailed out to all policy members, select watershed stakeholders and local farmers (please contact Mary directly if you would like to see a complete list of invitees). Both committees met in January and there was a very good

turnout overall. The committees will meet every other month, alternating months at the MACC office.

Although the Agricultural Outreach Committee was well attended by MSU Extension, Allegan and Ottawa County Conservation Districts, NRCS and the Ottawa County Drain Commissioner's Office, very few local producers attended. The overall purpose of this committee is to work together to accomplish tasks under the Rural Program Development DEQ grant, including coming up with new ways to reduce soil erosion and storm water runoff from agricultural lands. The next scheduled Agricultural Outreach Committee meeting is April 16th at 10:00 a.m.

The Watershed Planning Committee meeting had excellent attendance and Mary received many positive comments from participants who were impressed with the level of involvement from the different stakeholder groups. The overall purpose of the Watershed Planning Committee is to discuss important watershed related issues and assist MACC staff with revising and updating the current watershed management plan. The next scheduled Watershed Planning Committee meeting is March 26th at 1:00 p.m.

There has been a new printing of the "Into the Watershed" DVD that is available at the MACC office. The DVD can be viewed via a link on the MACC's website or by searching "Into the Watershed" on YouTube.

The MACC has been approached by Hope College to participate in their Children's After School Achievement (CASA) summer program. This year, the six week program for second through fifth graders, will be focusing on water! Mary and Beth will be involved with this program by providing children's books and copies of the DVD "Into the Watershed", leading tours of the Smalenburg Park raingardens and using the Enviroscapes for demonstrations.

III. Transportation Issues

A. Federal Economic Stimulus Package Transportation Projects-

Steve Bulthuis reviewed recommendations from the TIP Development Committee on the allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for transportation projects totaling approximately \$2.4 million dollars. Last month the committee was provided with a list of projects categorized by tiers reflecting the submitting agency's priorities. The list was subsequently revised by the TIP Development Committee as more details regarding ARRA funding became available. All the recommended projects are from the first tier. The distribution of ARRA funds was approached in much the same manner as the "Jobs Today" funding was in 2007 where each local road agency received a portion of the funding.

Steve also reviewed a road resurfacing project on Byron Road (I196-64th) to be funded with rural ARRA funding and several Macatawa Area Express projects recommended to receive ARRA funding.

A motion to amend the recommended projects into the 2009 program of the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and to authorize staff to

administratively make any necessary adjustments, pending the release of the official funding level was made by Amanda Price and supported by Les Hoogland. Motion carried.

Steve then noted that there was a need to develop an illustrative list of projects and add them to the FY2008-2011 TIP in order to have members in the position to react quickly in the event additional ARRA funding becomes available.

A motion to incorporate the illustrative project listing into the FY2008-2011 TIP and authorize staff to administratively move projects from the illustrative list, in consultation with the TIP Development Committee, into the FY2008-2011 TIP should additional ARRA funding become available was made by TeSlaa and supported by Vander Kooi. Motion carried.

B. FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment – Steve Bulthuis reported that there are two amendments to the 2009 program that are being requested. They are as follows:

- Transfer of \$62,280 in unused STP funding from the 48th Street (Ottogan-142nd) project to 7th Street (Lincoln-River) project.
- Revisions to the transit operating and capital line items as well as the addition of several new line items related to capital needs as detailed in the memo included in the agenda packet.

A motion was made by Terry Nienhuis and supported by Bill Vanderbilt to amend the 2009 program of the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Motion carried.

C. Westrain Collaborative Update – Steve Bulthuis provided information on the Amtrak *Pere Marquette* as requested at the January meeting. Steve reported that ridership and revenue are up for the fiscal year compared to the same period last year. Roundtrip ridership for FY2008 was 111,575. So far this fiscal year, revenue is up about 10% but ridership is up only slightly. Regarding the service delays on December 21st, the article in the February 21st edition of the Holland Sentinel summarized well the significant misjudgments and miscommunications made by Amtrak on that evening. Steve noted that Amtrak has contacted the stranded passengers to offer a refund or a voucher for future travel and it's been 10 to 1 that the passengers opted for the voucher for future travel.

D. MDOT/FHWA Comments – Dal McBurrows reported that the stimulus package is one of the major focal points on their agenda. To emphasize the importance of the stimulus projects, MDOT Director Kurt Steudle and Gov. Granholm were in Grand Rapids Friday, February 20th to underscore the need to construct projects receiving stimulus funding as soon as possible. Dal also noted that the Department has completed their 2009-2013 Road & Bridge Program and efforts continue to develop the FY2010-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program.

IV. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

V. Members' Comments –

A. Host Member: Les Hoogland, City of Zeeland Mayor, extended a welcome to everyone to the Howard Miller Community Center. Completed and upcoming city projects are as follows:

- Completion/update of the cemetery building.
- West Main Street resurfacing project was completed and came in under budget.
- Construction of the Lawrence Park Bowl to begin in the spring.
- New gazebo in Paw Paw Park
- Repaving of Central Avenue from Maple to Fairview
- Continuing design of the Washington Street round-about.
- Spring will bring a new toy store and Mom & Baby store to the downtown

B. Other MACC Members – There were no comments.

VI. Administrative Matters

A. Monthly Finance Report – Steve Bulthuis reported that 1/3 of the fiscal year is now complete. He states that there is nothing out of the ordinary. Total revenue is at 35.4% and expenses are at 23.2%. Revenues exceed expenses by \$106,086.

B. MACC Executive Committee Report – Steve summarized a written report by highlighting the following topics:

- A successful open house on January 29th. There was a good turnout. The MACC welcomes everyone to stop by for a tour if you were unable to attend.
- Steve Bulthuis and Mary Fales gave a presentation/update to the Allegan County Board of Commissioners on MACC activities. Please notify the MACC office if you would like a staff member to present to your board or council.
- Revisions are being made to the MACC's cost allocation plan which specifies how costs are treated. The document is being updated to reflect the purchase of the office building and current staffing.

VII. Other issues, adjournment and next meeting

A reminder that Kevin Carroll, motivational speaker, will be speaking April 1, 2009 at the Harbor Lights Middle School.

Next Meeting will be scheduled as follows:

**Monday, March 23, 2009
Park Township Hall
52 – 152nd Avenue
Holland, MI 49424**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.