



Policy Board

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- Al Myaard
- Terry Nieahuis
- Keith Potter
- Amanda Price
- Gordon Schrotenboer
- Russ Te Slaa
- Dave Vander Kooi
- Todd Walters

MACC POLICY COMMITTEE

**March 23, 2009
Park Township Hall
52-152nd Avenue**

12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

■ *Executive Committee

PRESENT: Blaine Koops, Hannes Meyers, Terry Burns, Les Hoogland, John Kleinheksel, Sandra Cornell-Howe (for Dal McBurrows), Al McGeehan, Al Myaard, Terry Nienhuis, Jerome Bush (for Keith Potter), Amanda Price, Gordon Schrotenboer, Russ Te Slaa, Dave VanderKooi, Terry Hofmeyer

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Mac Donnell, Steve Redmond, Jeremy Gonsior (Holland Sentinel), Aaron Deiter, Steve Bulthuis, Mary Fales, Elisa Hoekwater, Stephanie Beyer, Joel Evenhouse

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes –Following self-introductions, a motion was made by Mr. Te Slaa and supported by Mr. Meyers to approve meeting minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

II. Presentations

A. 2010 Census - Pat McDonnell, US Census Bureau - Ms. Mc Donnell, partnership specialist with the Grand Rapids office of the US Census Bureau, shared information regarding the establishment of a census Complete Count Committee in the MACC area. Referencing information she distributed to committee members, she explained the structure, purpose and effectiveness of complete count committees. Upon further discussion, there was consensus to have MACC staff convene a meeting of local members to determine the interest and need for establishing a complete count committee.

III. Macatawa Watershed Project

A. Bank Erosion Hazard Index Project Update – Ms. Fales introduced student intern Mr. Evenhouse (Hope College) to present the findings from the Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) Survey Project he recently completed for the watershed. Mr. Evenhouse visited 117 road stream crossing locations throughout the watershed and completed a short visual survey at each site to assess the potential for streambank erosion. Four aspects of streambank condition were surveyed including root depth, root density, surface protection and bank angle. 53% of the sites were determined to have a

low risk of stream bank erosion, 38% were categorized as having a moderate potential for erosion and 9% were categorized as having a high potential for erosion. Many of these sites had stream banks with visual signs of erosion. Some were located in forested areas where undergrowth was sparse and banks were mostly bare and vulnerable to high flows. Others were located in residential areas where the stream was bordered by maintained lawn and turf grass with shallow root systems. This work was completed as part of the Rural Program Development DEQ grant and will provide valuable information for the watershed management plan.

B. February Snowmelt Event – Ms. Fales reported on the major snowmelt event that occurred in early February when temperatures reached the mid 50s for almost a week and decimated the snow pack. The flow in the main branch of the Macatawa River (measured at Adams Street) increased from approximately 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) to over 1000 cfs in one 24 hour period. She presented aerial imagery of the snow cover before and after the melting event and pictures of the high flows and related flooding at selected road stream crossing locations. Past research and hydrology models have shown that major snowmelt and rain events (especially those occurring in early spring) are the main contributors of runoff and associated sediment and nutrient loads in the Macatawa Watershed.

IV. Transportation Issues

A. Air Quality Conformity Analysis -Mr. Bulthuis reviewed a memo included in the agenda packet summarizing the results of a recently performed air quality conformity analysis. The analysis was triggered due to the revisions of a project on I-196 that was being accelerated due to the receipt of stimulus funding.

A motion to approve the air quality conformity finding as presented in the memo dated March 17, 2009 was made by Ms. Price and supported by Mr. Meyers. Motion carried.

Amendment to the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program- Mr. Bulthuis directed committee members to a memo sent via email informing them that MDOT has two projects that they need amended into the current Transportation Improvement Program. These projects are scheduled to receive stimulus funding as MDOT continues to revise its list as they strive to meet the very stringent use-it-or-lose-it provisions of the law.

Motion made by Mr. Schrottenboer supported by Mr. Burns to approve amending the 2009 program of the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the projects outlined in the memo dated March 19 as well as other projects as described. Further, to allow staff to administratively revise project details as needed. Motion carried.

B. MACC Nonmotorized Plan – Ms. Hoekwater reviewed a timeline contained in the agenda packet that outlined the steps to completing a nonmotorized plan. Currently interviews are being completed with each member to discuss nonmotorized issues. A

workshop with all members was scheduled for early April. She noted that there will be many opportunities for the public to provide input. The effort is scheduled to be completed this fall.

C. Green Commute Week 2009 – Ms. Hoekwater provided an overview of activities planned as part of the second annual Green Commute Week to be held May 18-22. Once again there would be a leadership ride and committee members were invited to participate. Local bike shops will provide equipment as necessary. An educational forum is also scheduled.

D. MDOT/FHWA Comments – Ms. Cornell-Howe reported that the annual meeting to review the MACC's transportation program prior to development of the FY2010 Unified Work Program would be occurring within the next month.

V. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VI. Members' Comments –

A. Host Member: Ms. Price, Park Township Supervisor, welcomed everybody to Park Township and highlighted several township activities:

- Conducting an engineering study analyzing high water table issues
- Construction of a skate park this summer
- Hiring of a new township manager, Mr. Jerry Felix
- Looking at parking issues related to visitors at Mt. Pisgah
- A juried art show in August

B. Other MACC Members – Mr. Schrottenboer reported that Ottawa County Dispatch was now operating out of their new facility. Mr. Burns noted that he has made available to MACC staff a summary of ARRA funding opportunities. Mr. Te Slaa reported that ridership on the Macatawa Area Express exceeded 300,000 in 2008, an increase of 40%. Mr. McGeehan distributed a proposal for alternative financing of the WEMET drug enforcement program.

VII. Administrative Matters

A. Monthly Finance Report – Steve Bulthuis reported that through the first five months of the fiscal year, revenue is at 40.2% and expenses are at 28%. Revenues exceed expenses by \$105,500.

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

- The latest developments related to stimulus funding noting that all transportation projects funded with stimulus funding would be posted on the agency's website
- Staff had begun the process of developing the FY2010 budget
- Staff is making preparations for an outreach meeting to publicize the availability of brownfield site assessment funds

VIII. Other issues, adjournment and next meeting

Blaine Koops read an email he received from Sue updating her current condition and intention to return to work within the next week.

Next Meeting will be scheduled as follows:

**Monday, April 27, 2009
Port Sheldon Township Hall
16201 Port Sheldon Street
West Olive, MI 49460**

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.