



**Macatawa Area  
Coordinating Council**  
*A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government*

**MACC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**June 22, 2009**

**Zeeland Township Hall**

**12:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Blaine Koops, Rosemary Ervine, Bill Vanderbilt, Terry Burns, Les Hoogland, John Kleinheksel, Dal McBurrows, Al McGeehan, Al Myaard, Terry Nienhuis, Keith Potter, Amanda Price, Ed Stielstra (for Terry Hofmeyer)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Grylicki, Aaron Deiter, Sue Higgins, Steve Bulthuis, Mary Fales, Elisa Hoekwater, Bill Nelson, Becky Rininger, Thun Champassak, Ron Brink, Joe Haveman, Bob Genetski, Nate Reen, Heather Sandberg, Mike Avery, Corey Compagner, Bob Karsten, Tim Barkel, Jim Miedema, Bill Smith, Wayne Kuipers

- I. **Introductions and Approval of Minutes** – Following self-introductions of all present, a motion was made by Amanda Price, and supported by Terry Burns, to approve the minutes of the May 18 meeting as distributed. Dal McBurrows noted that Item III. Transportation Issues, B. Transportation Planning Program Certification should refer to "certification", not recertification as published. Motion and support agreed with this change. Motion carried.

**Addition to Agenda:** Chair Blaine Koops announced that due to the serious damages throughout the area caused by the recent storm, we would amend the agenda and discuss those issues first. Bill Nelson (Allegan County Road Commission) showed photos of some of the roads damaged by the storm; he estimated that a minimum of \$2.5 million, and 12 months will be needed to repair the most serious damages. Becky Redicker (Allegan County Drain Commissioner) stated that it is too early for accurate damage estimates to the approximate 800 county storm drains, but a great deal of erosion has already been noted. The Drain Commissioner's office is carefully noting all complaints and they are relying on residents to report damages.

Bill Smith (Ottawa County Director of Emergency Services) stated that 4.3 inches of rain was measured during just a one-hour time frame (8:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19). During the total 18 hours of rain, approximately seven inches were measured. The bottom tier of townships in Ottawa County were the hardest hit by

- Policy Board**
- Blaine Koops, Chair
  - Rosemary Ervine
  - Hannes Meyers, Jr.
  - Pankaj Rajadhyaksha
  - 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

the storms. Approximately 15-30 road washouts have been noted, with 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in southern Park Township the most severe. It is estimated the damage at that site is 12-15 feet deep, and 50 feet across. In addition, there has been major drain damage at Teusink's Pony Farm on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. The City of Holland had very severe damage and assessments are now being made of that damage.

Mr. Smith clarified that damages to public facilities are treated differently than those damages incurred by private homes. Ottawa County is requesting a declaration of disaster status at the state level. It is possible that a similar request could be made of federal authorities. These actions will be determined with further clarification of cost estimates of damages.

Mr. Smith further noted that Waukazoo Woods (Park Township) was also hard hit, especially with trees down/uprooted. It is currently estimated that 60-100 trees have been damaged in that area. Very significant power outages occurred due to the damage to the trees which greatly added to the flood damage.

A request to the Michigan Department of Agriculture for assistance has been submitted. There is still water over roads in some areas.

Examples of public facilities that have incurred damages include Holland Hospital, Western Seminary, and Hope College. Current cost estimates are \$1.5 million just at Hope and the Seminary.

Al McGeehan gave examples of severe damage throughout the City of Holland (e.g., Rolling Meadows, Holland Heights, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, etc.). He is hopeful that assistance could be provided for collection of damaged personal property, but he also stated that the City of Holland does not have funds for these unexpected costs. He urged coordination of efforts by both the public and private sectors. While he noted that there is no system to prevent similar damages in the future, some assistance can be obtained via the City Clerk (claim forms), the Assessor (reports of damages to appliances), Christian Reformed Churches Disaster Response Services (assistance to unemployed, low-income, and/or elderly).

Les Hoogland stated that the City of Zeeland did not sustain such wide-spread damage although a lift station failed, and there was significant damage on 103<sup>rd</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Heather Sandberg (Congressman Pete Hoekstra) noted that their website has contacts for organizations that might be helpful to residents.

Senator Wayne Kuipers urged prompt assessments of damages from local units of government; such assessments can be updated later as more thorough assessments are possible.

State Representatives Joe Haveman and Bob Genetski offered their help and concern for residents impacted by flood damages.

Bill Smith, Ottawa County Emergency Services, noted that a spread sheet is available on line for local units of government to report their assessment of damages. Use of this spread sheet will be helpful if declaration of disaster status is further pursued.

Amanda Price (Park Township) provided many examples of damaged areas throughout the township.

All agreed that even with such serious damages, we can be grateful that no injuries or deaths directly related to the storms have been noted.

Chair Koops resumed the published agenda at this point.

## II. Presentations

- A. **FY 2010 Budget (Draft II)** – Sue Higgins noted minor changes to the draft budget that was presented at the May 18 meeting. She indicated a desire to ensure ongoing funding for the Stormwater Specialist even after a grant for those activities expires (currently estimated to expire in December 2009). She indicated that existing funding sources can cover these expenses for the short term. The budget is currently projected to have a surplus of revenues over expenses of \$4,577.44. Formal approval of the FY 2010 budget will be sought at the July 27 meeting of the Policy Committee.
- B. **MACC Executive Committee Member** – It was recommended that Pankej Rajadhyaksha be approved to fill the current vacancy caused by the resignation of Thun Champassak. This appointment will be in effect through the end of the current fiscal year (October 2009). Mr. Rajadhyaksha is currently employed with the Bank of Holland, he lives in the City of Zeeland, and his various banking experiences will be a good addition to the Executive Committee.
- C. **Nominating Committee** – Terry Nienhuis (Holland Township), Howard Baumann, Jr. (Port Sheldon Township), and Terry Hofmeyer (Laketown Township) have been asked to serve on a nominating committee to identify additional area residents for future vacancies on the Executive Committee.

## III. Transportation Issues

- A. **Westrain Contract Extension** – Following discussion about status of current funding to promote the Pere Marquette passenger rail service, a motion was

made by Al McGeehan, and supported by Bill Vanderbilt, to authorize staff to sign amendatory contract extending the term of the contract with MDOT for marketing the Pere Marquette, until September 30, 2010. Motion carried.

- B. **FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – Steve Bulthuis explained a request to amend the current TIP to add 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Riley – Roosevelt), to delete Washington Avenue @ Main Street (roundabout), and to add operating and capital expenditures for the Macatawa Area Express. Following discussion, a motion was made by Terry Burns, and supported by Terry Nienhuis, to amend the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include and remove projects as detailed in staff memo as well as memo from Macatawa Area Express. Motion carried.
- C. **FY 2010 Unified Work Program (UWP) Update** – Steve Bulthuis provided a very brief progress report on the new UWP and indicated that significantly more details will be provided at the July 27 meeting. Dal McBurrows noted that MDOT will appreciate receiving the revised UWP by the end of July and Steve concurred.
- D. **Ottawa County Energy Efficiency Grant** – Steve Bulthuis explained that federal Recovery Act funding has been awarded to Ottawa County to be expended on projects that achieve energy efficiency/conservation. A traffic signal optimization for western Ottawa County is being explored, including the use of \$67,500 in Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds as local match. Currently it is anticipated that such an initiative could include as many as 80 signals, with a total overall project costs estimate of \$480,000. MACC, as coordinating entity, would be responsible for study oversight including consultant selection, meeting coordination, etc. and the proposal budget will include appropriate reimbursement for those administrative responsibilities. A motion was made by Bill Vanderbilt, and supported by Les Hoogland, authorizing staff to submit proposal, pledging the \$67,500 in CMAQ funding as local match toward overall project costs of \$480,000, with determination of fee for project administration and final approval at a later date should project be selected for funding. Motion carried.
- E. **FY 2009 TIP Amendment request by Macatawa Area Express** – (This item was covered under Agenda Item III/B.)
- F. **Green Commute Week** – Noting time taken to discuss storm damages, Chair Blaine Koops indicated this agenda item will be deferred until next meeting.
- G. **Development of Non-Motorized Plan** – Chair Koops noted this agenda item will also be postponed until next meeting.
- H. **MDOT/FHWA Comments** – Dal McBurrows reported that the Recovery Act process is working well. He also noted that small amounts of such funding (i.e., \$11,700) are being directed to the MACC area, but he is quite confident that more funding may be available to us in the future. Chair Blaine Koops asked about the potential of the state being unable to secure federal funding because

of lack of match funds. Both Blaine Koops and Al McGeehan urged an increase in the gas tax to ensure such a situation does not occur.

**IV. Macatawa Watershed Project** – Chair Blaine Koops noted that in order to not be rushed in these reports, that this overall agenda item will be postponed until the July 27 meeting.

**V. Brownfield Site Assessment Initiative** – Thun Champassak (consultant to the MACC) presented a progress report on Phase I and Phase II site assessments which includes five projects so far. He indicated that the Steering Committee has recommended that a request for a Phase II assessment at Crescent Shores Marina be postponed until further notice. Discussion did occur about the petroleum contamination near that site that was identified in the Grand Valley State University's study of sediments in Lake Macatawa.

Thun also described viability issues being considered by the steering committee including: real estate transactions, known brownfield sites, functionally obsolete sites, blight, and job creation/economic growth. While he further noted that while the current deadline for utilizing this EPA grant is September 2010, that the current weak economy is very challenging. He noted that in 2005 there was a total of \$40 million in publicly marketed commercial sales, with approximately 50% of this involving sites in the Holland/Zeeland area. In 2005 there were 66 such transactions, and 62 transactions in 2006. In 2007 there were 37 such transactions, and in 2008 there were 48 transactions. Conversely, in the first half of 2009, there have been only nine such transactions. He urged a broader consideration of use of the site assessment funding, while maintaining the strict compliance with appropriate regulations. He further explained how the site assessment funding can appropriately fit with existing brownfield authorities.

It was agreed that the steering committee will be encouraged to be more creative in their consideration of appropriate projects for use of the site assessment funding in order to maximize the use of these funds for the overall good of the area. Thun was asked to communicate this strategy with the members of the steering committee.

**VI. Public Comments** – There were no comments.

**VII. Members' Comments**

**A. Host Member: Al Myaard, Zeeland Township Treasurer** – Everyone was welcomed, especially representatives from Lansing. It was noted that 20 new housing starts have occurred recently (with 18 of those at the Black Creek

Ridge). Holland Hospital is breaking ground next week on a new urgent care facility. Stimulus funds will be used to resurface Byron Road, including three-foot paved shoulders, during July and August.

**B. Other Members** – No more comments.

**VIII. Administrative Matters**

**A. Monthly Finance Reports** - Sue Higgins summarized monthly finance reports for April and May, noting that at the end of May the annual budget has been completed for 67% of the fiscal year with revenues at 47% and expenses at 43.5%. Questions were encouraged.

**B. MACC Executive Committee** – Members were encouraged to review written summary of meeting which occurred on June 2. Discussions included budget scenarios, filling current vacancy on the Executive Committee, Brownfield Initiative, and covering administrative responsibilities during anticipated staff absences.

**IX. Other Issues, Adjournment and Next Meeting** - There being no further issues for discussion, a motion was made by Amanda Price, and supported by Keith Potter, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting will be scheduled on Monday, July 27, at Olive Township Hall.**