

MACC POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, July 27, 2009

Olive Township Hall

12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rosemary Ervine, Hannes Meyers, Jr., Bill Vanderbilt, Terry Hofmeyer, Les Hoogland, John Kleinheksel, Dal McBurrows, Al McGeehan, Al Myaard, Vince Bush (for Terry Nienhuis), Keith Potter, Amanda Price, Gord Schrotenboer, Kent Rubley (for Dave Vander Kooi), Todd Wolters

OTHERS PRESENT: Thun Champassak, Pete Pfeiffer (MDOT), Andrea Goodell, Aaron Deiter, Sue Higgins, Steve Bulthuis, Beth McDonald, Elisa Hoekwater and Stephanie Beyer

- I. **Introductions and Approval of Minutes** – Rosemary Ervine, MACC Vice Chair, welcomed everyone. Following self-introductions, **a motion was made by Al McGeehan, supported by Hannes Meyers, Jr., to approve meeting minutes of the June 22 meeting as distributed. Motion carried.**

- II. **Administrative Issues** – Rosemary Ervine noted that an item will be added to the agenda to address the MACC Brownfield Site Assessment initiative.
 - A. **FY 2010 Budget** – Sue Higgins reviewed the proposed FY 2010 Budget, including the good news that it is projected for revenues to slightly exceed expenses (currently estimated at +\$6215.97). Members were reminded that in this proposed budget there are no pay increases proposed for staff, that member dues are not increased except for minor population changes, and that decreases in revenues (\$102,378) are primarily for completed projects. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gord Schrotenboer, supported by Amanda Price, to approve the FY 2010 Budget as presented. Motion carried.**

 - B. **(NOTE: This agenda item was added as noted above). MACC Brownfield Site Assessment Initiative** – Following explanation by Thun Champassak (contracted consultant to the MACC) regarding progress of site assessment work at a gas station (Stanton Corners), **a motion was made by Hannes Meyers, Jr.,**

supported by Vince Bush, to authorize a maximum of \$10,000 for a Phase II site assessment at the Stanton Corners gas station project. Motion carried.

Mr. Champassak, as requested, provided more information about the progress of the MACC Brownfield Site Assessment initiative.

- C. Monthly Financial Report** – Sue Higgins summarized the written report which was distributed in the agenda packets noting that, as of June 30, the fiscal year is 75% completed. Revenues are at 52.5% and expenses are at 48%. She noted that she was not aware of any anticipated budgetary difficulties with the remainder of the fiscal year. Questions were encouraged.
- D. MACC Executive Committee Report** – Rosemary Ervine noted that this report was included in the agenda packets and encouraged questions. Sue Higgins provided brief summaries of the following topics:
- **Telly Award for “Better Together” DVD** – As part of a national competition, this DVD has been selected for a bronze award.
 - **MACC Nominating Committee** – Terry Nienhuis, Howard Baumann, Jr., and Terry Hofmeyer were thanked for their willingness to serve.
 - **“Watershed Investigation – 12 Labs for High School Science”** – Newly released textbook co-authored by local educators is available from the National Science Teachers Association, at Hope College, and at the MACC.
 - **MacMedia Report on Website “hits”** – A recent report of website measurements was shared.
 - **Internships** – One Hope College intern is finishing his work with the MACC and it is anticipated that a new intern, based at Grand Valley State University, will start soon.
 - **New Sediment Sampling Grant** – Preliminary word has been received about funding of a new study of sediments throughout the Macatawa Watershed.
 - **“Communities of Common Interest”** – There was discussion of recently released position paper (copy provided in agenda packets) by the West Michigan Chamber Coalition which advocates for cost-savings for local governmental services. It was noted that some members were attending a meeting at GVSU at 3:00 to further discuss this topic.

III. Macatawa Watershed Issues

A./B. Smallenburg Park/Paw Paw Bridge Park Maintenance Update – Beth McDonald summarized actions to remediate recent flood damage and general maintenance at two Best Management Practices sites (i.e., Smallenburg Park and

Paw Paw Bridge Park). Appreciation was expressed to all who helped on these initiatives.

C. Children's After School Achievement (CASA) Program – Various educational activities that were led by Beth McDonald and Mary Fales, along with other educators, were highlighted. Approximately 100-125 students participated in this six week summer program.

D. Algae Sampling Update – A progress report was provided on current investigations of Lake Macatawa algae. Volunteers are collecting samples on a weekly basis which are, in turn, analyzed by staff at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) in Muskegon. Preliminary findings show that while some toxins have been found, none have exceeded the concentration level to be harmful.

IV. Transportation Issues

- A. Green Commute Week** – Elisa Hoekwater provided a summary of activities that took place in May. All participants were thanked, including those members and others who participated in the Leadership Ride. The purpose of Green Commute Week is to encourage community residents to try different modes of transportation, such as bicycling, walking or public transportation. The third annual Green Commute Week is scheduled for May 17 – 22, 2010.
- B. Development of Non-Motorized Plan** – Elisa Hoekwater provided an overview of progress on this initiative and encouraged discussion. Comments were made regarding involvement with MPOs in adjoining areas and other local planners, potential of marketing of Amtrak services with our area portrayed as a biking destination, and possible outreach that might help on projects such as current 40th Street with questions among residents about value of nonmotorized travel. One member encouraged ongoing planning activities related to bike lanes.
- C. FY 2010 Unified Work Program** – Steve Bulthuis summarized the final draft of the FY 2010 Unified Work Program, noting that revisions to the tasks discussed at the June meeting have been incorporated. Following further discussion, **a motion was made by Keith Potter, and supported by Les Hoogland, to approve the FY 2010 Unified Work Program and authorized the signing of the Resolution on page 5. Motion carried.**
- D. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment** – Steve Bulthuis explained that the first Recovery Act-funded road project in the MACC area (Douglas/Lakewood from River to 120th) is under construction. This project came in

under engineer's estimate and as a result a balance of approximately \$103,000 in Recovery Act (ARRA) funding is available. The TIP Development Committee recommends that these funds be split between two projects as follows:

- \$25,750 to the 104th Avenue (Paw Paw – BL196) project in the City of Zeeland
- \$77,250 to the 40th Street (Washington – Lincoln) project in the City of Holland

Al McGeehan asked to be recused from this vote as he lives in the area of the 40th Street project. **Les Hoogland made a motion, supported by Gord Schrotenboer, to recuse Al McGeehan from this vote. Motion carried.**

Following further discussion **it was moved by Les Hoogland, and supported by Amanda Price to amend the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Motion carried.**

- E. **Pere Marquette Silver Anniversary Celebration** – Steve Bulthuis summarized the plans for the upcoming celebration activities to acknowledge 25 years of passenger rail service between Grand Rapids and Chicago, with a stop in Holland. These activities are scheduled for Wednesday, August 5 at 7:50 a.m. at the Louis Padnos Transportation Center. He encouraged participation.
- F. **MDOT/FHWA Comments** – Dal McBurrows noted that our revised Cost Allocation Plan has been submitted to Commission Audit for review. He reported that tasks included in the General Program Accounts, along the state trunkline will be reviewed at the MPO Technical Committee meeting on August 11. And he acknowledged that approval is still pending on the last TIP amendment submitted to FHWA.
- V. **2010 Census Complete Count Committee** – Steve Bulthuis provided a progress report on the work of the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee. The purpose of this committee is to educate and motivate persons in the MACC area to complete and return the 2010 Census mail survey. The committee has requested \$1500 to cover costs of promotional materials to help educate members of the community about the importance of participating in the 2010 Census. A request for this funding was denied by the Census Bureau. This request is now being made to the MACC member units of government to provide the \$1500 according to the population-based formula that is utilized for MACC dues. **A motion was made by Keith Potter, and supported by Les Hoogland, to approve a request to the MACC member units of government for a total of \$1500 for educational materials related to the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee. Motion carried.**

VI. Public Comments – Vice Chair Rosemary Ervine asked for comments from the public and there were none.

VII. Members' Comments

A. Host Member: Todd Wolters, Olive Township Supervisor reported on regravelling of roads by the Ottawa County Road Commission, noting that there are still 45 miles of gravel roads in the township. He acknowledged that Sara Lee is undergoing a major plant rehabilitation and adding more than 30 new jobs.

B. Other MACC Members – Amanda Price expressed disappointment that more damage was not reported from the recent floods of June 19. Designation as a Federal Disaster Area was denied even though she firmly believes that there was considerable more flood damage than was reported by residents. She suggested that there might be a role for the MACC in helping all local leaders better understand flooding and groundwater issues as well as helping to educate residents about the importance of reporting flood damage to the local units of government.

VIII. Other Issues, Adjournment and Next Meeting – There being no additional issues for discussion, Vice Chair Rosemary Ervine adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m. and announced that the August meeting is cancelled. The next meeting of the MACC Policy Committee will be scheduled as follows:

Monday, September 28, 2009

Fillmore Township Hall