

MACC POLICY COMMITTEE

November 23, 2009

City of Holland

270 S. River Avenue

Holland, MI 49423

12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rosemary Ervine, Blaine Koops, Hannes Meyers, Jr., Pankaj Rajadhyaksha, Terry Burns, Terry Hofmeyer, Les Hoogland, John Kleinheksel, Jerome Bush (for Keith Potter), Dal McBurrows, Kurt Dykstra, Al Myaard, Terry Nienhuis, Amanda Price, Gordon Schrottenboer, Russ TeSlaa and Dave Vander Kooi

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Northrup, Ann Query, Linda Falsted, Ed Stielstra, Dennis Grylicki, Steve Redmond, Phil Hekman, Aaron Deiter, Andrea Goodell, Sue Higgins, Steve Bulthuis, Mary Fales, and Stephanie Beyer

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes—Following self-introductions, **a motion was made by Hannes Meyers, Jr and supported by Terry Nienhuis to approve meeting minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting as distributed. Motion carried.**

II. Presentation – “West Michigan Agriculture, the Status and Conditions”- Greg Northrup, President, West Michigan Strategic Alliance (WMSA), summarized a recently released report prepared by the Michigan State University Land Policy Institute in partnership with WMSA in the research and publication of this document. It was noted that agriculture may be the top industry in Michigan, especially West Michigan, due to problems in both the auto and office furniture industries. While this report looks at regionwide data, each county’s data may also be viewed separately. Kent County has experienced some decrease in agricultural land, while Allegan County has seen a significant increase. There was further discussion about possible barriers to increasing production, funding for marketing of products, ethanol production, land banks, purchase of development rights, and other observations about the study. It was noted by Mr. Northrup that the next step in this research will be a survey of agricultural producers which is expected to take place in early 2010.

III. MPO Transportation Issues

A. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment- Steve Bulthuis reviewed the amendment requested by MDOT which places a small amount of funding in the FY 2010 program for project development and a substantial amount of funding (\$1.42M) for a bridge project over the South Branch of the Macatawa River in Allegan County (48th Street). **A motion was made by Terry Hofmeyer, supported by Jerome Bush, to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP amendment to add**

\$1.425 million in local bridge work for a bridge project over the Macatawa River on 48th Street in Allegan County and \$40,000 for trunkline project development /scoping. Motion carried.

B. Funding Issues – Steve Bulthuis explained possible impact of the FY 2009 rescission. He noted the definitions of both rescission and obligation and he noted temporary funding formulas. Staff is moving forward with the estimate used for FY 2010 meaning that all projects are still funded at the amounts programmed in the TIP. He strongly urged all eligible members to prepare FY 2010 projects as soon as possible.

C. Westrain Collaborative – Steve reported on statistics at the end of the fiscal year for passenger rail service. The Holland station remains the third busiest on the Pere Marquette line even though ridership and revenues were slightly down from the record breaking year of 2008. Ridership was at 103,246 and revenues were at approximately \$2.8 million. Data is measured by capacity, with the pre-purchase of tickets helping to make the data available. State funding is expected to be at only 80% of previous years, but at least for now, it is expected that seven day/week service will be continued. Cuts may be necessary later.

D. Non-motorized Plan – Sue Higgins reviewed information on the progress of the development of the Non-Motorized Plan. Informational meetings were scheduled in order to educate the community about regional benefits of a non-motorized network and seek additional public input. Maps are being prepared for review of existing shared use paths, sidewalks and paved shoulders within the MACC area. Members of the MACC Transportation Technical Committee were asked to recommend additional improvements that could potentially improve non-motorized traffic safety, coincide with future infrastructure projects and provide connections with surrounding communities. These recommendations are being incorporated into a map indentifying proposed facilities within the Macatawa area. Once maps are finalized, they will be presented for review by the MACC Policy Committee. Other recommendations were for improvements for traffic safety statistics and vehicles vs bicycles.

E. FHWA/MDOT Comments – Dal McBurrows reported that the MDOT is discussing the ramifications of the rescission and more information will be made available to us as soon as possible. He noted that the amended Unified Work Program, including the Long Range Plan scenarios study, has been forwarded to FHWA for review and approval. He discussed deadlines for submitting ARRA projects of December 18, with a deadline of March 2 for losing unused funds. The MDOT Five Year Plan is available on the MDOT website.

IV. MACATAWA WATERSHED ISSUES – Sue Higgins provided a brief history of the pertinent documents that provide guidance for the Macatawa Watershed Project including the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the Voluntary Agreement, and the 10 Year Watershed Plan. She also noted that it is time to update each of the documents and MACC staff members are working closely with the MDEQ staff in this regard. There

were questions about who triggered the Macatawa Watershed Project and about progress on meeting the goal for phosphorus reduction.

A. Stormwater Issues - Mary gave a summary of the Stormwater Committee meeting that took place Nov 17th with all six permittees in attendance. Permittees for our watershed include the Cities of Holland and Zeeland, Ottawa and Allegan County Drain Commissioners and Road Commissions. Mary outlined some of the key components of the storm water permit as Good housekeeping and pollution prevention at municipal properties, training and monitoring. This reissued storm water permit does have an increased amount of requirements and responsibility on its permittees.

B. Agriculture Producers' Survey - Mary gave an update on the agricultural producer's survey. She showed the map of agricultural land and who will be receiving the survey. The mailing list is 547 and represents almost 47,000 acres of land in the watershed. It is currently being reviewed by MDEQ with a goal to send out in January.

C. Hope College Student Research Presentations – Mary announced that again this year we have the pleasure of hosting the Advanced Environmental Seminar students from Hope College at our December watershed meeting. The students have picked watershed related research topics to present. All MACC Policy Committee members and anyone else interested in this research may attend. The meeting will be held at the Riley Street Fire Station, December 8th at 10 AM.

V. MACC Brownfield Site Assessment Initiative –

A. Project Report – Steve Bulthuis gave a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the properties that have received brownfield site assessment funds. The properties are located in both Ottawa and Allegan counties with expenditures ranging from \$2,100 to more than \$30,000.

B. US EPA Visit – Steve noted that a representative from the US Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfield Division, had recently paid a visit to view some of the projects receiving site assessment funding. She was impressed with the level of cooperation of the steering committee members and pleased with the progress of the program in these challenging economic times.

VI. Public Comments – There were none.

VII Members Comments –.

A. Host Member – Mayor Kurt Dykstra stated that he shares the City of Holland's long-held commitment to collaboration. He noted work at the state level that might be helpful in addressing collaborative issues such as shared services, resulting cost savings, and potential revisions to PA 312 which require utilizing the highest rates of shared services.

B. Other MACC Members – Terry Nienhuis, Terry Hofmeyer and Amanda Price supported the comments made by Kurt Dykstra. Terry Hofmeyer noted a recent meeting organized by the West Michigan Strategic Alliance which included representatives from townships and cities throughout West Michigan with the primary topic of discussion being state legislation that hinders intergovernmental cooperation.

VIII. Administrative Issues – Sue Higgins summarized the monthly financial report and noted that the annual audit is progressing on schedule. It is anticipated that the auditors will attend the December 21 meeting of the Policy Committee to report their findings. Rosemary Ervine noted the summary of the most recent Executive Committee meeting was included in the agenda packet.

IX. Other Issues, Adjournment and Next Meeting

Next Meeting will be scheduled as follows:

Monday, December 21, 2009

**Felt Mansion
Laketown Township
6597 – 138th Avenue**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.