

**NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MEETING**

Friday, June 22, 2007

Call to Order / Introduction of Guests

Larry Inman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Traverse City Michigan Works! Center. Larry welcomed everyone and the new board members, and then asked for introductions around the room.

Review and approval of the agenda

Larry asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved.

Motion by, J. Watkoski supported by J. White, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of April 27, 2007

The minutes of April 27, 2007 were reviewed, and Larry asked for an approval. There were no questions or comments.

Motion by, J. Watkoski supported by L. Atchison, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial report

Charlene Schlueter, Associate Director, went through the Amended Budget for FY 07 for the period 10/1/2006 thru 09/30/2007 and Expenditure Report for May, 2007. Questions were answered.

Motion by J. Watkoski, supported by, S. Rogers to accept the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

No public comment.

Workforce Development

a. Return on Investment Report

Elaine Wood, Deputy Director, presented the statewide Michigan Works! Return on Investment Report. There was some discussion and questions were answered.

b. 21st Century Workforce: Coordinated Regional Strategies Plan

Elaine presented the updated version of this plan and discussed the process by which the plan was developed. There was some discussion and questions were answered.

c. One Stop System Plan

Elaine presented a summary of this plan and told the board that the Workforce Development Board reviewed and approved it at its last meeting.

d. Classroom Training Report

Elaine went through this report with the board, which had been presented to and approved by the Workforce Development Board at its last meeting.

e. Grant Announcements

Elaine announced that NWMCOG has received a \$500,000 grant for a three-year period from the US Dept, of Labor, and a \$100,000 one-year grant from the Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth, for the Healthcare Regional Skills Alliance. The combination of these two grants will allow us to do a great deal of workforce training for various jobs in the healthcare industry over the coming years. She walked through the Work Plan for these two grants, detailing the various activities that will take place. Questions were answered.

Regional Planning/Community Development:

a. TC-TALUS Bookkeeping Services Agreement

Charlene Schlueter stated that NWMCOG has been asked to provide bookkeeping services for TC-TALUS and she reviewed the proposed agreement in detail. Discussion took place and questions were answered. Larry Inman requested that Charlene check with our auditors to make sure we have all the proper controls in place.

Motion by L, Nemeth, supported by, L. Atchison to approve the Bookkeeping Services Agreement with TC-TALUS. Motion passed unanimously.

b. GIS Presentation

Sarah Merz, GIS Specialist, gave a presentation about GIS services available through NWMCOG and the various applications of GIS technology. Discussion took place and questions were answered.

c. Regional Planning Staffing

Elaine Wood reviewed a proposed job description for a replacement position in Regional Planning and discussed a changing focus in the department. The replacement position will focus on New Designs for Growth and more specifically on Community Housing Choices. These new directions reflect strategic goals that have been identified within the department and service requests that have been brought to NWMCOG by various community partners. Questions were answered.

d. Regional Planning Educational Opportunities

Elaine Wood reviewed three workshops that are coming up in the next few months on Affordable Housing, Open Meetings Act, and Risk Management. She encouraged board members to attend and/or send county staff people to these training opportunities.

Business & Economic Development

a. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Elaine presented the CEDS, pointing out the most critical components and the process used to develop this document. Board members had reviewed an earlier draft at a previous meeting. The Workforce Development Board approved the CEDS at its last meeting. Questions were answered.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by S. Rogers, to approve the CEDS. Motion passed unanimously.

Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI)

a. Goodwill Contract

Kirt Baab, Mi. Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative, Community Coordinator, and Elaine Wood discussed problems NWMCOG has been having with Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan as a contractor for MPRI. Goodwill has two contracts for FY 07, one for housing services and one for Case Coordination and Prison In-Reach Services. The contract for housing services has not been without problems, but staff recommends that the contract be continued to the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2007. However, the Case Coordination contract is not being fulfilled properly and funds have been over-spent. In addition, because Goodwill is in the process of closing its Transition Houses and has blended the Case Coordination staff with its Transition House staffing, the agency can no longer meet its contractual obligations. Numerous meetings have been held with Goodwill over the past several months to work with them to correct problems, but the situation has worsened. Staff recommended the cancellation of this contract as of June 30, 2007, three months prior to the original end date of the contract. The contract allows NWMCOG to take this action, and temporary systems are in place to provide services for the remaining three-month period. Discussion took place and questions were answered.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by L. Nemeth to end the contract with Goodwill for MPRI Case Coordination services, effective June 30, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Mid-year Site Review by MDOC

Kirt Baab, MPRI Community Coordinator, reviewed the content of the mid-year review by MI Dept. of Corrections. Questions were answered.

c. FY 08 Service Delivery Model

Kirt and Elaine reviewed a chart outlining the MPRI Comprehensive Plan for FY 08. Discussion took place and questions were answered.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by L. Copley to approve the FY 08 MPRI Comprehensive Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Letters and articles of interest were sent in the packet. No comments were made.

County Roundtable

The commissioners discussed various topics of interest from their communities.

Other

Chairperson Inman reminded everyone about the Beaver Island retreat and encouraged members to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Wood, for
Denise Culman, Recording Secretary