

**NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MEETING**

Friday, September 28, 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 asked for introductions around the room. Benzie Commissioner Mary Pitcher substituted for Commissioner Mark Roper, and Charlevoix Commissioner Bob Drebenstedt substituted for Commissioner Chris Christiansen.

Review and approval of the agenda

Larry asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved.

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

Minutes of June 22, 2007

The minutes of June 22, 2007 were reviewed, and Larry asked for an approval. There were no questions or comments.

Motion by, L. Copley, supported by J. White, 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 through August, 2007. Questions were answered.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by, M. Pitcher to accept the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

FY' 08 NWMCOG Budget

Charlene reviewed the FY08 budget and answered questions. She explained that this budget will change over the coming months as final program allocations become finalized.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by, J. White to adopt the FY'08 NWMCOG Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

No public comment.

Workforce Development

a. No Worker Left Behind

Deputy Director, Elaine Wood made a presentation about Governor Granholm's new initiative called No Worker Left Behind. She explained the various policy decisions that were taken by the Workforce Development board in order to implement this new program. There was considerable discussion and questions were answered.

Regional Planning/Community Development:

a. Community Housing Choices

Associate Director, Matt McCauley presented the new Community Housing Choices program, giving a thorough explanation of the purpose, funding, history, and objectives. There was considerable discussion.

b. Regulatory barriers to affordable housing

Matt introduced NWMCOG's newest Regional Planner, Sarah Lucas, who gave a presentation on the report prepared by NWMCOG regarding regulatory barriers to affordable housing in the various townships and municipalities of Grand Traverse County and one township in Leelanau County. This report was commissioned and could be done for any other county or group of counties. There was a lot of discussion and questions were answered.

c. TC-TALUS Board representation

Elaine explained that the NWMCOG Board holds one voting seat on the TC-TALUS Board of Directors. IN the past, Chairman Larry Inman had designated Regional Planning Manager, Megan Olds to substitute for him as the voting member. Since Mewgan is no longer with NWMCOG, the staff requests a decision as to who the voting TC-TALUS Board member will be. There was some discussion, and Chairperson Inman expressed a desire to have a staff person continue to serve as the voting member.

Motion by M. Pitcher, supported by L. Atchison, to designate the lead NWMCOG Planner to serve as the agency's voting member of the TC-TALUS board . Motion passed unanimously.

Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI)

a. Selection of service providers for FY'08

MPRI Community Coordinator, Kirt Baab reviewed the RFP process and bidders who submitted proposals to deliver services during FY08. He discussed how the program will provide housing services in the form of rent checks to Probation Agents for parolees, in lieu of having a housing subcontractor. Staff recommendations were to contract with the following providers for the following services: 1) TBAISD for in-reach, transition and employment services; 2) Child & Family Services (in partnership with Addiction Treatment Services and Catholic Human Services) for mental health assessments; 3) Child & Family Services for family reintegration services; 4) Women's Resource Center of Traverse City for domestic violence services, pending successful negotiation for delivery throughout the entire ten-county region.

Motion by L. Atchison, supported by L. Copley to award FY08 MPRI service contracts as recommended. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Community Safety and Crime Prevention Fund at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation

Kirt reviewed the proposed fund to be established at the GTRCF to support various initiatives related to MPRI, and explained that similar funds will be established in other community foundations throughout the region over the next couple years. The JEHT foundation is prepared to award us a few different grants but requires that the funds be housed in local community foundations, as discussed at previous board meetings. There was considerable discussion and questions were answered.

Motion by B. Drebenstedt, supported by J. White to approve the development of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Fund and authorize the MPRI Steering Team to make decisions about the use of the funds. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Changers in Community Corrections Program management

Elaine explained that our seven-county Regional Community Corrections Program has been managed by Northpointe Institute for the past several years. That organization has served notice that it will no longer be able to manage the program. NWMCOG administration has made a decision to manage the community corrections program in-house, under the direction of Kirt Baab. No changes will be made in the local programming. Chairperson Inman requested that a plaque of appreciation be presented to Dave Wells at the next NWMCOG Board meeting for his years of leadership and service for community corrections.

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

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