

DRAFT – Agenda
Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole – Monday, January 12, 2015 – 7:30 A.M.
HH Purdy Building - 125 W. Lincoln, Caro, MI

Finance

Committee Leaders-Commissioners Kirkpatrick and Bierlein

Primary Finance

1. **Millage Planning Strategy Veterans and EDC (See A)**
 - **EDC (Video) - Board Member Meeting Attendance**
 - **Follow-Up Meeting Veterans**
 - **Absentee Ballots**
2. **Draft County Parks and Recreation Plan Update (See B)**
3. **Solid Waste Planning Committee Vacancy**
4. **Discussion of 2015 Grants and Potential Future Grants (See C)**
5. **Next Steps 2015 Work Program (See D)**
6. **MAC Platform (See E)**
7. **Prosecutor Request for Extradition Payments (See F)**
8. **Connections Human Services – Guardianship Services (See G)**
9. **Amalgam Digital Parcel Agreement (See H)**
10. **LEAD Tuscola (See I)**

On-Going Finance

1. Review the Potential of Borrowing to Fund MERS
2. Denmark Water Project
3. County Solid Waste Management Plan
4. Road Commission Financial Follow-up
5. Potential Acquisition of State Property
6. Review of Bank Accounts without County Treasurer Signature
7. Abused, Neglected and Delinquent Children Needs Planning
8. Recycling Planning – State Funding Potential
9. Shared Equalization Director Huron/Tuscola 2-Year Extension
10. Proposed Gun Board Changes

Personnel

Committee Leader-Commissioner Trisch

Primary Personnel

On-Going Personnel

Building and Grounds
Committee Leader-Commissioner Allen

Primary Building and Grounds

On-Going Building and Grounds

Other Business as Necessary

1. Thank you to Enbridge for Safe Communities Grant (See J)
2. Human Services Coordinator Council Meeting 1-13-15 (See K)
3. Michigan Renewable Energy Collaborative Meeting 1-15-15 (See L)
4. Three County Meeting – Sandusky 1-21-15 (See M)
5. Cass River Greenways annual Report (See N)

Public Comment Period

Mike Hoagland

From: Mike Hoagland <mhoagland@tuscolacounty.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:15 PM
To: Ronald Amend; Steve Erickson; Sherry Vicky
Cc: ctrisch@tuscolacounty.org; 'Bardwell Thom'; 'Bierlein Matthew'; 'Kirkpatrick Craig'; 'Roger Allen'
Subject: Testimonials for Ballot Questions

Ron, Steve and Vicky

You probably have already thought of this but I believe written testimonials from people who have experienced the direct benefit of the services provided by the Tuscola County EDC and Veterans Affairs would be helpful in explaining the value and importance of the millages. These testimonials should be sent to the newspaper and shared through other methods such as Facebook.

More specifically, how about a person that was not working but now is working because of the efforts of the EDC and what the job has done for him (her) and their family with a heartfelt explanation.

Ron, maybe in the case of veterans written testimonials explaining how they are now receiving a benefit that they otherwise would not have received if it had not been for the work of Veteran Affairs. Again, with a heartfelt explanation of what the assistance has done for them and their families. Let me know when you think we should meet with the Veteran leadership again for progress discussion. I think we should meet at least two more times before the election.

On another note, the Advertiser has agreed to write an article explaining the importance of and procedures to obtain an absentee ballot.

Believe it or not there are only about 29 working days before the vote. My understanding is EDC Board members are in the lead in explaining this millage proposal to various groups and organizations. Veteran organizations are in the lead in explaining the proposal for their operation. These are low cost millage requests that are extremely important to increase opportunity for citizens of the county.

This needs to be a top priority for all of us and we need strong leadership now.

Thank you for all your dedicated work and if I can help in any other way let me know.

Mike

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Goals and Objectives

Guiding Principles and Philosophies

The County of Tuscola adheres to and strives to continually obtain the following guiding principles and philosophies concerning park and recreational opportunities in Tuscola County.

- A. Provide accessible facilities and leisure opportunities for all persons regardless of their physical and socio-economic characteristics.
- B. Efficiently employ Tuscola County resources, in concert with other public, private, and volunteer resources, to provide a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities plus avoid duplication of services where unnecessary.
- C. Actively seek the most appropriate acquisition and uses of community open space and natural features to meet the community's needs for active, structured recreation, as well as passive enjoyment of the out-of-doors.
- D. Plan for the continued availability of financial, physical, and personnel resources to support the parks and recreation system.

The County of Tuscola formulated the following goals and objectives based upon the input received at multiple open public meetings, the community input session on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 and the demographic and physical characteristics of Tuscola County.

Goal 1

Provide safe, broad, and community based park and recreational opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents and visitors of Tuscola County.

Parks serve as a natural gathering place for community residents and provide free or inexpensive recreation opportunities. To enrich the quality of life in Tuscola County, it is important to continue to provide and improve park facilities. Tuscola County residents fall below the average incomes ranges, therefore, they wish to have community parks with basic amenities that appeal to all age groups. Community input is a solid indicator of what residents in the community want in terms of recreational facilities. The County of Tuscola will continue to plan its improvements based upon the needs expressed in formal and informal input sessions.

- Objective – Continue to add amenities to Vanderbilt County Park and Campground based upon community input.
- Objective – Have the Tuscola County Park and Recreation Commission play a more active role in park and recreation initiatives throughout the County.

Goal 2

Continue to improve and upgrade the County of Tuscola recreational and support facilities so as to offer the community parks that it can be proud of.

Park facilities are among the most visible indicators of a community's identity and pride, as well as local tax dollars at work. The County of Tuscola wishes to provide quality facilities that show they are an active community that takes pride in its community facilities.

- Objective – Provide a dock and launch ramp for Canoe and Kayaks in Vanderbilt County Park and Campground

- Objective – Provide potable water to Vanderbilt County Park and Campground
- Objective – As improvements are made to Vanderbilt County Park and Campground it is important to prepare for the future and acquire additional acreage which will meet the expanded need as Vanderbilt County Park and Campground becomes a desired destination for campers.

Goal 3

Provide recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. The County of Tuscola wishes to provide recreational opportunities for all residents. This will be especially important as the population in the community continues to age because mobility and accessibility issues increase with age.

- Objective – Make sure all improvements and upgrades to park facilities, where feasible, are barrier free.

Goal 4

Intergovernmental agreements and best use of common resources - The County of Tuscola is in a predominantly rural area, with Townships, Villages, and Cities having limited recreational resources. Working within our County boundaries and surrounding governmental bodies makes logical sense for all parties involved.

- Objective – Increase partnerships and collaborative opportunities within the County and Region

Goal 5

The County of Tuscola is an avid supporter of parks and recreation within Tuscola County and would like to strive and assist in making them fiscally responsible while meeting the park and recreational needs of the residents and visitors of Tuscola County.

- Objective - Seek additional grant support for improving the park and recreational offerings in Tuscola County
- Objective – Create a Tuscola County Park Authority to work as a County wide cooperative to pool resources in an effort to better serve the communities
- Objective - Seek a County millage to support park and recreation improvements, maintenance, creation, and development

Action Program

With goals and objectives in place, the County of Tuscola was able to develop a 5-year action program to work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives. The Action Program details the direction the County of Tuscola wishes to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of park and recreational opportunities within the County. These decisions were made based on recreational trends, national standards, participation data at existing facilities, community input and opinion, and demographic trends in comparison and analysis.

Potential Capital Improvements (CIP) for this Parks and Recreation Master Plan have been established not only to provide a framework for decision makers, but also to enable the County of Tuscola to apply for grant funding for these proposed projects. The CIP Schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all-inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule merely reflects the results of the input from County of Tuscola board members and input from the community. It is very likely the schedule and plan will be amended

Action Program Rational

Should the funds become available the future improvements to Vanderbilt County Park and Campground include:

Install Potable Water Lines – currently the only water source for campers and visitors is a hand pump well which varies in degrees of the level of salty brine. This was the highest priority suggested by the focus group and the community.

Open up Access to Saginaw Bay – currently there is no easy access to Saginaw Bay. Additionally canoe and kayakers along Saginaw Bay do not have access to Vanderbilt County Park and Campground. This was a strongly suggested initiative from the focus group and the community.

Construct Restrooms with Showers – the only available restrooms currently available is one male and one female chemical toilet. The community has suggested that they would like to have flush toilet restrooms with shower facilities.

Construct a Sanitary Station for Campers – there currently is no sanitary station for campers. It has been suggested that installing a sanitary station for campers would greatly improve the park as well as prevent a potential environmental hazard.

Install Playground Equipment – From the Community input received and the focus group it was suggested to install additional playground equipment.

Refurbish or Replace Picnic Tables – the current picnic tables are several years old and in need of refurbishment and/or replacement.

Develop a Walking Trail – in the park that has a surface that is stable and provides access for all community members to use. In addition said trail should also provide a pleasing atmosphere one in which provides a sense of place and a greenway.

Install Water Lines at Improved Campsites – campers currently do not have access to potable water in the campground.

Improve Driveway – the current driveway is in poor condition and needs to be upgraded to allow for easier access to the park as well as for persons of all levels of mobility.

Update Lighting to Energy Efficient – the currently lighting is several years old and not very energy efficient. By replacing the lighting with energy efficient lighting this would help to improve the parks carbon footprint as well as obtaining an energy cost savings.

Acquire Land to Expand Campgrounds – with the improvements in place it is projected that the campgrounds will easily exceed capacity and need to be expanded.



**Work Program Objective – Aggressively Pursue Grant Opportunities working with
EDC Grant Writer**

Potential County Grant Applications for 2015

1. Parks and Recreation – Vanderbilt Park
2. Multi-County Recycling – Department of Environmental Quality
3. County Recycling – Facility and Equipment Needs
4. Community Development Block Grant – Housing Rehabilitation
5. Health Chronic Disease Coordinating Network for Huron/Sanilac/Tuscola Counties
6. Veterans Affairs Staffing

Potential Future Grant Applications to Implement County Needs

7. Geographic Information Systems
8. Region 6 Prosperity Initiatives
9. Technology
10. On-Line Services
11. Cass River Dam
12. Cass River Greenways Initiatives
13. Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative – North End of County Development
14. Revolving Loan Fund
15. Jail Needs
16. Guardianship Services

Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation Proposed Millage Budget

Revenue/Expenses	Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Comments
Revenue			
Millage Proceeds	\$ 322,000		.20 Mills generates approximately \$322,289
Total Revenue		\$322,000	
Expenses			
Grant Match Fund		150,000	Competitive Grant Matching Fund
Equipment			
Computers	4,000		3 Computers upgrades and software
Total Equipment		4,000	
Salary & Wages			
Executive Director	55,000		Full Time Salary
Communications Director	41,600		Full Time Wages @ 20.00 per hour
Office Manager	29,120		Full Time Wages @ 14.00 per hour
Total Salary & Wages		125,720	
Benefits & Fringes			
Fringes - Vacation	6,500		
Taxes - FICA Employer	11,540		
Total Benefits & Fringes		18,040	
General Expenses			
General Expenses	24,240		Utilities, Supplies, Promotions etc...
Total General Expenses		24,240	
Total Expenses		322,000	

2015 County Work Program in Brief

Activities for First Part of 2015

1. Evaluate whether the county should bond for pension obligations
2. Conduct quarterly financial reviews
3. Evaluate investment earning potentials
4. Explain the importance of veterans/EDC millage requests
5. Work to restore full SCMCCI lease payment
6. Obtain a road commission update regarding legacy cost liabilities
7. Work with auditors to improve classification for foreclosure fund balance
8. Launch portions of geographic information system program
9. Assure corrections are made by the software company to time attendance system
10. Review and comment on MAC platform
11. Review of Region 6 prosperity plan and how it can help economic development
12. Planning and implementation of mosquito abatement pole building
13. Update the county parks and recreation plan
14. Determine if the county will apply for a DNR trust fund grant for Vanderbilt Park
15. Pursue state grant to study feasibility of three county recycling operation
16. Monitor and assist with the Cass River Greenways project improvements
17. Community health assessment

Activities for Second Part of 2015

1. Update 5 year financial plan
2. Determine millage renewals for 2016
3. Determine if new millages will be requested in 2016
4. Assess early intervention prevention methods for abused and delinquent children
5. Review drain-at-large costs and impact on the budget
6. Review health insurance renewal costs
7. Assess retirement system actuarial costs for 2015/2016
8. Evaluate continue involvement in MAC workers compensation program
9. Continue activities to comply with the uniform budgeting and accounting act
10. Monitor state replacement of full personal property tax

11. Work to achieve county treasurer as signer on all county bank accounts
12. Continue to develop digital file information for geographical information system
13. Continue to development and advance online services
14. Evaluate methods to increase efficiency through the increased use of technology
15. Expand county role as a technology hub and provide IT services to other entities
16. Continue to strengthen revenue generation and cost reduction through technology
17. Contracting with Sanilac county for animal control services
18. Solutions to continuing Huron/Tuscola county equalization director
19. Denmark water project
20. Evaluate MSUE 4-H program in helping delinquent youth
21. Continue to review potential service base consolidations
22. Review MAC weekly state legislative reports to protect county interests
23. Complete updated fixed asset inventory
24. Update the 10 year capital improvements plan
25. Update the emergency plans for employees in county buildings
26. Review and approve the updated solid waste management plan
27. Assess if the county will acquire the former Camp Tuscola property
28. Remain active in the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
29. Monitor the Nextera Tax Appeal and impacts on the county
30. Follow developments regarding potential new renewable energy requirements
31. Continue to monitor the affordable care act for county compliance
32. Update county non-union personnel policies
33. Review procedures to maintain compliance with Mi-Osha
34. Complete 2014 comprehensive annual financial report



2014 – 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LABOR & TAXATION PLATFORM

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Michigan Association of Counties recognizes the need for a strong economic development climate at the state and local levels. We are aware of the strategic importance the agricultural and other industries have to the State of Michigan, and the vital need to provide safe communities that enhance our residents' quality of life. We also recognize the need to protect our natural resources such as our forests and water. Adequate local government funding and sound land use policies relate intricately to the above issues. To enhance our business climate, we believe that the state and local governments must work with each other and with companies to encourage economic development and retention and to help them attain high public health standards, quality education, safe communities and a desirable place to live.

TAX CAPTURE DISTRICTS AND ABATEMENTS

The Michigan Association of Counties recognizes that allowing the capture of property taxes to promote economic development is one of the tools that can be employed to attract and retain businesses in our communities. However, it is also recognized that long term captures of growth and the capture of special millages negatively affect the ability of counties to finance services. Accordingly, it is the position of the Michigan Association of Counties that wherever the capture or abatement of county property taxes is contemplated, County boards of Commissioners have the authority to determine if the capture or abatement of its taxes shall be allowed. Further, if they determine that the capture or abatement should be allowed, the County Board of Commissioners shall have the option of having a seat on the Economic Development Board of the capturing unit.

MAC opposes granting another unit of government any authority to eliminate or capture that portion of property taxes owed a county. Further, as tax capture districts come to the end of their term(s), counties should be given an additional option to opt out. Counties should also have the maximum flexibility to utilize their economic development tools.

MAC opposes the capture of voter approved dedicated millages. MAC supports legislative changes to allow for the resetting of tax capture baselines or opting out of capture all together, when a tax capture district, regardless of the date of creation, renews, refinances debt, or modifies a plan.

MAC supports restraints of allowable expenditures from tax capture dollars to prohibit the funding of municipal services.

TOURISM

Michigan's natural resources and its tourism industry play a vital role in our state's economy. MAC will work with the State of Michigan and local units of government and the private sector to promote and develop tourism. This can be accomplished by bringing the tourism industry back to the Great Lakes. Additionally, reintroducing cruise ships, presents an opportunity to show visitors the *Most Beautiful Place in America*. Tourism provides many benefits for our communities and economy, including jobs. The Michigan Association of Counties continues to support, and urges the diversification and expansion of, our state's critically important tourism industry.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING

MAC supports seeking changes to the siting procedures and regulation of manufactured housing parks. Units of government should be allowed to exceed manufactured housing community standards to accommodate growth-related concerns. Additionally, local governments should be permitted to review and approve all site plans for new and expanding communities similar to the Subdivision Control Act. MAC supports a revision of the tax structure of these types of developments to ensure that they pay an equitable share of the cost of services provided by local governments and schools.

MAC strongly supports ad valorem taxes paid on manufactured housing units within manufactured housing or seasonal parks be based on the value of individual units within these parks. MAC also believes any fee and/or tax should be equitably distributed back to local governments and to individual local school districts in which these parks are contained.

PORT AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT

MAC supports legislative initiatives to encourage the development of port authorities which give all local units of government control over their respective jurisdictions as it relates to property tax exemptions.

PILT AND CFA

County Government is the principal provider of a broad range of services. Delivery of those services is contingent on proper funding. Revenues are vastly affected when the Federal and State Government owns and controls large tracts of land in a particular county. We urge the Federal and State governments to maintain or increase the PILT program and Commercial Forestry Act (CFA). MAC strongly urges the State of Michigan to discontinue buying new land without local sign-off until it can make full PILT payments to local governments, including counties. MAC will work with DNR and the legislature to identify new sources of funding for the payment of PILT.

BOVINE TB

Bovine TB is having a significant impact on the agricultural and tourism industries in Michigan. MAC is in support of any efforts to eliminate bovine TB and regain our bovine TB-free status. We urge the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to expedite eradication efforts.

PUBLIC EMPLOYER ISSUES

Because the County is the funding source for all wages and benefits involved with financial decisions determined by county boards of commissioners, public employers' unique problems must be recognized. MAC opposes legislation that would allow the state to dictate salary and benefit levels at the local level.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

MAC supports extensive involvement and control by County Commissioners in local delivery of services in the national Workforce Investment System, particularly in the appointment of Workforce Investment Board members. MAC encourages strong, local, public-private partnerships comprised of County Commissioners, business and industry representatives, and representatives of government and educational institutions, labor and community-based organizations. MAC supports Workforce Investment Area designation based upon existing county-structured partnerships and labor market areas, known as the Michigan Works! System.

MAC supports adequate federal and state funding for Michigan's Workforce Investment system. Most, if not all, funds appropriated should be allocated by formula to states and localities.

MAC urges Congress and the Michigan Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds for all workforce development activities, in general, and sufficient funds for the summer jobs and year-round youth programs to maintain or increase levels of service to include those for economically disadvantaged youth.

MAC supports federal and state efforts to assist agricultural industry with seasonal workforce availability and the enhanced efforts to fill highly skilled workforce needs with qualified personnel.

OTHER LABOR ISSUES

MAC is in favor of:

- A. MAC does not support expansions of binding arbitration for county employees.
- B. Clarification in the Fair Labor Standards Act that governmental salaried executive and administrative employees are not entitled to time and a half for hours worked more than 40 per week.

STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR LOCAL SERVICES

Counties are burdened with unfunded mandates and for the delivery of vital services, yet the state has chosen to cut local government funding and limit our ability to raise revenue at the local level. While we understand that we need to contribute to providing government services, we question the prudence of increasing spending in some areas of the state budget while the State Legislature has decreased or frozen the main sources of revenues to counties. MAC opposes any legislation that cuts funding to counties without a corresponding reduction in mandated services. MAC also opposes any additional mandates on counties without full and appropriately reliable funding.

STATUTORY FEES

County Board of Commissioners should be given the authority to set mandated or non-mandated fees and charges for county services at rates which could allow full cost recovery to the county.

REVENUE SHARING

Recognizing that two-thirds of county expenditures are for mandated services, MAC supports providing full-funding and constitutional protection for county revenue sharing.

MAC calls upon the Governor and Legislature to fully and promptly honor its obligation to restore revenue sharing to counties as Revenue Sharing Reserve Funds are exhausted.

STREAMLINE SALES TAX

MAC supports the state of Michigan entering into compacts with other states for the collection of sales tax revenue due the state of Michigan on catalog and internet purchases in conjunction with current statutes as they pertain to use tax. MAC also supports that this revenue be treated as sales tax revenue for accounting and distribution purposes.

SEVERANCE TAX

MAC recommends that the State of Michigan implement severance tax legislation that returns a portion of the revenue generated back to the local communities of origin in which the oil and gas drilling occurred.

USE VALUE ASSESSING

MAC supports the concept of assessing agricultural land according to its use value.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

MAC supports 100% reimbursement for losses associated with PPT reform.

DISCRETION IN USE OF NEW AND EXISTING REVENUES

County Boards of Commissioners are charged with service delivery of many state programs and determining the type and level of county services to be provided. MAC supports any efforts that grant or expand the ability of individual counties to use broad discretion in determining for what purposes county revenues are allocated. State legislation should not attempt to limit this discretion or further limit the availability of new and current revenues.

ELECTIONS ISSUES

MAC supports streamlining and curbing county costs associated with the elections process.

TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

MAC supports any new compacts or consent agreements between the state and the tribes maintain status quo or better regarding two percent support for local units of government.



2014 – 2015 JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY PLATFORM

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

County Commissioners have the challenge of overseeing and financing various budgets of the local criminal justice system under extremely difficult political and economic conditions.

MAC opposes any state efforts to require changes to the criminal justice process that will increase costs to counties without the corresponding funding to cover the costs.

MAC supports statutory language that prohibits judges from bringing an action against a county without prior approval by the Supreme Court.

COURTS

MAC supports 100% state court financing by the State with state revenue sources. Any programmatic changes should be fully funded by the State in accordance with Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

MAC supports county funding of only those portions of trial court activity and functions over which the County exercises budgetary and accounting controls and supervisory authority.

In conjunction with the Supreme Court, county clerks and judges, MAC supports continuing court reform initiatives that streamline the judicial system and addressing the following:

- Controlling court personnel costs.
- Conformance to Uniform Budgeting & Accounting Act.
- Issues pertaining to court records management throughout the courts.

MAC supports the establishment and/or expansion of specialty courts so long as measurable results and costs containment are achieved.

CORRECTIONS

MAC supports creative proposals to address local incarceration and recidivism. However, MAC opposes any efforts by the State to alleviate prison overcrowding by shifting responsibilities to the County level unless full funding for all related costs are also appropriated for all prison diversion programs, including but not limited to, County Jail Reimbursement Program (CJRP), community corrections, MPRI and proposed sentencing guideline changes. Additionally, MAC urges the Michigan Department of Corrections to take proactive steps to reduce the probation and parole failure rate before asking counties to take on more offenders at the local level. MAC supports the continuation of Truth in Sentencing.

Emphasis should be placed on:

- A. Primary prevention.
- B. Juvenile education.
- C. Drug education and effective law enforcement.
- D. Expanded substance abuse treatment programs.
- E. Adequate funding of youth assistance prevention programs.

- F. Expanded Mental Health Treatment alternatives to incarceration.
- G. Improving MPRI program oversight.

Legislative efforts to get "tough on crime" have had a strenuous impact on Michigan's jails and local criminal justice system. All state mandates should include:

- A. Funding allocations to cover all actual costs, including administration, healthcare and personnel expenses.
- B. Mandatory impact analysis of all juvenile and adult criminal justice policy proposals. The analysis should include estimates of fiscal impact on state and local budgets and the budget of the Department of Corrections.

MAC fully endorses statewide community corrections programs and urges total cooperation in the development and funding of these programs. MAC also encourages allowing counties to have maximum fiscal flexibility with state appropriated funds.

Counties should be given the option to privatize jails and other correctional facilities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

MAC supports restoring full funding of secondary road patrol as well as legislation holding county governments and law enforcement harmless from liability in pursuit situations and emergency response.

EMERGENCY 911 FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

The Michigan Association of Counties supports keeping 911 operations and funding at the local level. 90% of the resources that support 911/dispatch are provided by counties and other local units of government through a combination of surcharges on devices that access 911, millages and general funds. MAC supports the ability of counties and local units to provide 911 funding in any constitutionally allowable manner. Further, MAC supports the concept of voluntary consolidation of local 911 centers, either physically or virtually, when efficiency can be gained and public safety is not diminished, and encourages the state to explore grant opportunities for this purpose. MAC opposes mandated consolidation of 911/dispatch regardless of what entity operates or funds it, due to safety and security concerns. MAC supports adequate funding of E-911 at the county level in a manner in which all telecommunication devices shall share in the responsibility of funding.



2014 – 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL & REGULATORY AFFAIRS PLATFORM

ENVIRONMENTAL & REGULATORY AFFAIRS ISSUES

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) believes that a healthy environment is central to sustaining a sound economy, job development and quality of life in Michigan. Federal, state and local governments, businesses and all citizens must share the responsibility for improving and maintaining environmental quality. Legislative initiatives and administrative rule making authority advanced to address environmental issues must include local input and representation in their development. They must also consider balancing Michigan's long term needs for land management, clean water, air, healthy soils and thriving economy. Sound funding strategies must be identified to implement and ensure the success of program and policy initiatives.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

MAC supports current state law granting counties authority over the siting of solid waste facilities.

MAC supports solid waste management planning efforts whereby each county continues to have the authority to plan, coordinate, develop and implement its own solutions to meet the State's integrated solid waste management requirements. MAC supports incentives to encourage regional planning. MAC supports state funding (as provided for in Part 115 of PA 451 of 1994) mechanisms to implement county mandated solid waste management activities (i.e., requirements to develop and enforce plans, capacity assurance requirements, etc.). MAC supports state legislation which improves provisions of Part 115 of Public Act 451 of 1994 (commonly known as the Solid Waste Management Act). Improvements should streamline planning processes and process timelines; clarify the role and authority of counties in plan implementation; provide for funding of solid waste plan development and implementation responsibilities; and improve data collection.

MAC supports policies whereby the State provides adequate financial and staff resources to enforce state and local solid waste management laws, rules and regulations. MAC realizes that not all environmental issues and concerns are significant and that there are suggested solutions to problems that do not satisfy a cost-benefit analysis. MAC supports DEQ setting clear priorities with a reasoned and common sense approach to regulatory policies and procedures.

MAC supports legislative initiatives focused on comprehensive regionalized programs that address recycling and composting, including but not limited to: residential, commercial and industrial access to recycling/composting services by the private sector; recycling and composting, market development and procurement and incentives for brokerage activity. In the absence of private market sustainability, MAC supports the initiation and/or maintenance of county recycling and composting efforts so long as current or enhanced funding options are maintained in state statute. MAC supports county administration and/or coordination of local recycling programs as well as enhanced county funding options for the programs. MAC additionally supports incentives to reduce quantities of generated waste, such as volume based waste collection systems, and purchase of products that use packaging reduction methods (e.g., bulk product purchasing). Finally, MAC supports initiatives which encourage the purchase of products that have lasting value and are manufactured with recycled content.

MAC encourages regional household hazardous waste collections, permanent household hazardous waste collection facilities, and state legislation to encourage regional funding.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

The long-term ramifications of deep well injection of hazardous waste in the State of Michigan need to be studied and to be proven environmentally safe before additional sites are considered. MAC will review the continued practice of permitting deep well injection as a means of disposing hazardous waste in the State of Michigan. MAC recognizes the need for strict regulations regarding hazardous waste and supports the storage and or recycling of this waste in the most environmentally sound and scientifically based manner.

MAC believes that each county should be allowed to negotiate if they meet consistent state standards for deep well injection of hazardous waste. MAC encourages the state to develop standards for deep well injection of hazardous waste in the State of Michigan that maintains public health and safety. MAC strongly opposes the use of mines in Michigan as hazardous or radioactive waste disposal facilities. MAC also recognizes the states responsibility for managing the storage and or elimination of all waste created in the state.

WATER RESOURCES: GREAT LAKES AND GROUNDWATER

MAC encourages the implementation of pollution prevention practices that eliminate or reduce the quantity or toxicity of hazardous and non-hazardous waste released. To that end, we strongly support reasonable soil erosion control, sedimentation control, and watershed management, as long as all mandated activities are fully funded by the State.

MAC also supports county wellhead protection programs and requests the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) to review a statewide policy for capping abandoned and unused wellheads.

MAC urges equal distribution of funds and grants to Local Health Departments (LHDs)/Counties that have Watershed Monitoring, Beach Monitoring, and Surface Monitoring Programs in place.

MAC encourages the state to recognize the economic and environmental impact of the navigable waterways and harbors of the Great Lakes and connecting rivers, and further encourages the state to support the sustainability of these resources through grant funding, technical assistance and other financial assistance for dredging and invasive species control.

MAC supports the reauthorization of the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, which provides technical assistance, cost sharing funds, and research and is funded through assessments on nitrate fertilizers and pesticides.

MAC also understands the unique environmental needs of individual counties, MAC supports legislation that eliminates or reduces the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers with exceptions for new lawns and lawns which have been tested and show a need for some phosphorus. The legislation should contain language that allows counties the flexibility to maintain or establish their own phosphorus regulating ordinances. MAC recognizes that a reduction of the runoff of phosphorus from household lawns will help reduce the algae and "muck" in our beaches, rivers and streams.

MAC strongly opposes Great Lakes water diversion and redistribution outside of the Great Lakes water basin. MAC encourages the collaboration of Michigan with other Great Lakes states, the

National Association of Counties and Canadian Provinces to enact legislation to protect our Great Lakes resource.

MAC urges the Legislature to require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to monitor the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and groundwater discharge permits. MAC urges that a public body, similar to the previously existing Water Resources Commission, be formed and given policy-making authority in water quality and resource issues. MAC supports legislation that encourages the conservation of the state's groundwater resources and that allows for the resolution of groundwater conflicts.

LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE (LLRW)

MAC calls upon the Federal Government to reopen the 1980 Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act to limit the number of sites nationwide to two or three. MAC supports changing the definition of this type of radioactive waste to exclude that which will remain hazardous for more than one hundred years.

Should the State develop a "volunteer process" to site a LLRW facility, MAC recommends a policy that:

- A. Does not change or compromise the siting criteria of Public Act 204 of 1987 with the exception of allowing a county, interested in locating this facility within its borders, to seek a waiver of specific criteria.
- B. Defines a broad enough area surrounding the LLRW facility to ensure that all impacted jurisdictions and citizens are included in the process.
- C. Requires full compensation and environmental agreements be reached before the community is asked to make a firm commitment and requires a countywide referendum to authorize the signing of final agreements.

MAC opposes the deregulation and disposal of Below Regulatory Concern (BRC) radioactive waste in municipal solid waste landfills or incinerators.

SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT

MAC recognizes that scrap tire management is still an ongoing environmental problem and encourages the legislature to continue funding and planning for the reuse of the tires. MAC further encourages the legislature to fund or even subsidize the use of scrap tires in roads and other public facilities. This plan should include measures that will continue to implement and further develop markets which shall be used to find end-uses for scrap tires. MAC supports the increased use of recycled scrap tires in roads.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

MAC supports the development and implementation of a K-12 curriculum focused on scientifically based discussions of environmental problems, assessments of environmental risks to public health and the utilization of resources.

AIR POLLUTION

MAC encourages the state and federal administrators and regulators to prevent the State and counties from being subject to penalty provisions within the federal act for non-locally generated air pollution. Congress and the State Legislature, however, should evaluate whether strengthened emissions regulations are needed to protect public health.

MAC recognizes that indoor air pollution presents a threat to the public's health. MAC believes the State should set standards for indoor air quality in public places based on a cost/benefit analysis.

LAND USE

MAC supports providing local governments with the tools necessary for effective growth management. Indiscriminate land use is the primary threat to the environment, as identified in the Governor's Relative Risk Report and other state level assessments. However, Michigan lags far behind other states in effective growth management initiatives and tools. State leadership is central to addressing the problems associated with residential and commercial development of rural areas; loss of agricultural and forest resources; costs of infrastructure; and social conflicts at the residential/agricultural interface. At the same time, MAC recognizes the importance of observing and honoring private property rights.

Public Act 591 of 1996 (Land Division Act) amended the original Subdivision Control Act to review land divisions at the local level. Counties are concerned with regulatory barriers to brownfield redevelopment, the loss of agricultural, forest and open space lands and the management of new growth. MAC will continue to work with the Legislature to develop solutions for dealing with Michigan's urban sprawl and land preservation issues.

MAC is opposed to any state owned land transfers, purchases/sales, or exchanges without approval of the Board of Commissioners of all affected counties.

CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE

MAC encourages the continuance of the Clean Michigan Initiative as an important long-term solution to many environmental problems. Counties should have a strong voice in the continued development of the goals of the program, as well as the rules and regulations. Counties should provide input as to the non-point "source of the year", as that will be important to counties. Grant funds should be equitably distributed between remediation and protection projects.

NATURAL RESOURCES

MAC urges the legislature to increase funding to local Conservation Districts and Michigan State University Extension to assist with the preservation of forest, land, water, agricultural and other natural resources. These programs are active partners with County government and their resources.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

MAC urges the state to provide greater leadership in preserving agriculture land including, but not limited to, the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The state should substantially increase the funding method for PDR initiatives that will make significant annual preservation of farmland. Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) certification should be a component of the preservation of farmland. The state should substantially increase funding for PDR initiatives that will make significant annual preservation of farmland sustainable.

CAFOs

MAC supports consistent enforcement of current regulations and permit requirements for CAFOs. All CAFOs should be working toward MAEAP certification.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

MAC supports the statewide development of renewable energy resources and energy conservation programs with appropriate safeguards for residents and the environment.

INVASIVE SPECIES & PEST INVESTATION

MAC urges the legislature to develop and sustain plans to identify, prevent, reduce and eliminate invasive species in Michigan, as per the DNR and DEQ.

STATE LAND MANAGEMENT

MAC urges the legislature to properly manage the State lands under its control and asks that the State use good and reasonable land management policies. MAC also encourages the Department of Natural Resources to work more closely with counties and other units of local governments on land management issues.

MINING AND SEVERED MINERAL RIGHTS

MAC supports efforts to develop legislation that will protect the mineral rights of the surface (i.e., property) owner(s) from improper seizure, including mineral rights registration and activity notification.

Any proposed state changes to taxes for mining shall not result in any loss of local revenues or local authority.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Specifically MAC supports state and federal timber management plans that provide for maximum yield and reforestation. MAC urges the state to harvest timber at the rates outlined in its current plan so as to produce the highest sustainable yield and produce the necessary cutoff to regenerate the highest quality timber.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

MAC supports legislation for statewide development of appropriate safe guards on hydraulic fracturing.



2014 – 2015 TRANSPORTATION PLATFORM

TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Michigan ranks in the top ten largest road networks in the country. Mobility is a critical component for increased economic development and quality of life. MAC supports the logical development and interconnection of all modes of transportation across the state and within our local communities.

FEDERAL FUNDING ISSUES

MAC urges continued efforts toward minimizing Michigan's donor state status and applauds our congressional delegation for its efforts in that regard. MAC supports:

- A. That any federal surface transportation proposal must contain SAFETEA-LU provisions that not only raise Michigan's return on federal highway dollars to a minimum of 95%, but our state's return on transit funds to a 95% minimum as well.
- B. The Michigan Department of Transportation continuing to implement all provisions of SAFETEA-LU to ensure the equitable treatment of ALL of Michigan's counties.
- C. The Federal Government's release of obligated state and local funding currently being supplanted, including the Federal Highway Trust Fund and the Airport Development Trust Fund.
- D. The Michigan Legislature must address the continuing decline of our aging bridge system by increasing federal bridge funds that are directed to the Michigan Critical Bridge Fund from the current 15% to 30%.
- E. MAC supports the efforts to provide security at our nation's airports and ports are of the utmost importance to our nation's citizens. However, any federal mandates and procedures for airport security must be accompanied by funding so that county-run airports can meet the rigorous demands of these mandates and provide the highest security for our citizens.
- F. MAC supports the development of intelligent transportation technologies and highway safety initiatives.
- G. MAC urges Congress to pass a multi-year surface transportation bill that provides a long-term certainty and increases funding for transportation infrastructure.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

MAC supports increasing the state sales tax by 1% with the additional revenue earmarked exclusively for infrastructure funding and distributed by the 1951 Public Act 51 formula.

Michigan's gas user fee has remained unchanged for 10 years. MAC supports increasing the gas user fee. This increase should be distributed by the 1951 Public Act 51 formula, as it is now.

MAC supports parity of fuel tax rates for all motor fuels. This increase should be distributed by the 1951 Public Act 51 formula, as it is now.

MAC strongly opposes any efforts to divert motor fuel tax and diesel tax revenue for other uses, including state bond debt relief.

MAC supports vehicle registration fee reforms which include the collection of vehicle registration fees at the time of purchase rather than birthday and regularly retiring existing license plates which will cut down on registration tab scams.

MAC supports indexing the motor fuel and diesel tax rates to a multiplier based on inflationary road construction costs any increase should be distributed by the 1951 Public Act 51 formula.

MAC supports the development of fast lanes which allow for toll lanes to be built in the right of ways of existing congested roadways.

MAC understands the need for MDOT to postpone new construction projects in light of minimal revenue growth for the Michigan Transportation Fund. However, we urge the department to reinstate projects in the order of priority they were when postponed. The department should pay particular attention to those projects upon which capital investments had been made.

MAC supports:

MAC supports the legislative changes to Act 51 in 1998 which established MDOT to set the work plan and to provide support staffing to the study committee which limits the impact of local issues. A comprehensive independent statewide needs study must be completed prior to ANY changes in the distribution formula from the Michigan Transportation Fund.

MAC supports increasing the historic share of federal money dedicated to local road agencies.

MAC supports the Michigan Transportation Fund as a unique, constitutionally protected fund. The practice of transferring MTF dollars to other state departments must be stopped.

MAC supports the issue of transferring road jurisdictions between counties and the State is already provided for in Public Act 51 and has worked well for over 50 years. The process outlined in Public Act 51 should be continued.

MAC supports calling upon the Michigan Department of Transportation to review the current status of alternatives to road salt based on information from existing studies, trials, and tests and to make recommendations for advancing the use of alternatives at the state and local level.

MAC opposes any mandate from the state which may require an increased burden on property taxes to fund roads.

MAC supports returning the \$43 million of MTF (Michigan Transportation Fund) to MDOT's bonding debt, the \$33 million in the Local Program Fund back into the MTF for distribution among MDOT, county road commissions and cities and villages. The one cent of the 1997 gas tax increase that was earmarked for MDOT bridges is to be divided with 50% of the funds earmarked for the Critical Bridge Fund and 50% earmarked for MDOT's bridge program. This distribution should be reviewed as to whether to continue the current distribution or whether to return the one-cent back to the MTF formula.

MAC supports the Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) for local road improvements that result in economic development. The debt service for this program is being distributed in a manner that makes counties, cities and villages bear a disproportionate share of the debt. The debt service should be changed to reflect the true share of debt by local road agencies.

MAC supports proper funding of the roads under DNR's jurisdiction in order to keep these roads maintained and upgraded to where they qualify to be transferred to county road systems.

MAC supports water ferry passenger service operated by countywide public transit authorities continue to be funded at the present state/local operating percentage from local bus programs.

MAC recognizes the need to promote and provide an adequate infrastructure for an intermodal transportation system that integrates transit via air, rail, water and roadways.

MAC supports reinstating the emergency status back to the County Road Commissioners.

MAC encourages the Governor and the Legislature to provide incentives to promote the use and development of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. MAC also encourages the Governor and the Legislature to find an equitable registration fee for these vehicles to reflect their use of the roads.

MAC encourages MDOT and the Legislature to analyze using a mileage fee and others as an alternative method for road funding. This method may present a more reliable funding mechanism to fund our infrastructure.

MAC encourages the Michigan Department of Transportation and local road agencies to employ road building strategies, such as the use of Asphalt Rubber in pavement.

MAC supports alternative uses of used tires. Funding sources for such uses should include the consideration of a deposit.

COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

MAC supports reauthorization of Public Act 51.

MAC supports the continuation of county road agencies/departments retaining authority, jurisdiction and continuity of the primary and local roads in each county. It was due to concerns regarding the funding and quality of road repair that the Michigan Legislature required the transfer of roads in unincorporated areas to the county road agencies/departments.

MAC supports legislation allowing each County Board of Commissioners to determine membership size and term of office for county road agency/department.

MAC supports permissive legislation allowing each County Board of Commissioners the ability to create districts for County Road agencies/departments.

MAC supports legislation giving the County Board of Commissioners the option to limit the term of an elected/appointed Road Commissioner to 4 years.

MAC supports legislation to ease the removal of an appointed Road Commissioner.

MAC supports legislation to allow local road agencies to bid on state maintenance contracts.

MAC supports legislation that encourages the State Police to work with local units of government such as but not limited to County Road Commissions, County Board of Commissioners, City and Village officials during the establishment of speed limits on local roads.

MAC recommends that the Legislature enact legislation to exempt road authorities from paying royalty charges for materials that are mined and processed from state-owned pits to be used for maintenance, construction, or reconstruction.

MAC supports the expansion of specialized transportation services so that senior citizens and the disabled can maintain independent, healthy, and fulfilling lifestyles.

MAC strongly opposes any reductions of state funding for local road operation, repair or maintenance to County Road agencies/departments.

MAC supports the ability for individual counties to collect a gas tax which is applied for that specific county.

MAC supports legislation to give local control to speed limits on gravel roads.

MAC opposes any legislation that shifts responsibility from the Department of Natural Resources to local units of government for the proper disposal of road kill. Should the disposal of road kill become the responsibility of local units of government, then funding shall be provided from the Department of Natural Resources to reimburse local governments in accordance with the Headlee Amendment.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The governor and legislature should provide adequate revenues, and/or funding mechanisms, for operation, maintenance and expansion of public transportation.

MAC supports the creation/operation of regional transit authorities.

RAIL

MAC supports the preservation of all Amtrak service in the state of Michigan. However, we believe that the continued state support for this service should be tied to enhanced marketing efforts by Amtrak with the state and local entities to enhance ridership and promote tourism in the state of Michigan.

MAC supports the development of policy to work with short line rail lines to avoid abandonment of rail freight lines. In the event of abandonment, MAC encourages the State to retain and/or acquire right of way for future development.

MAC will work with MDOT Rail to make a Great Lake Rail Container hub in Detroit and bring a MDOT Rail Container hub to Northern Michigan.

MAC supports the federal, state and local partnership pertaining to the high-speed rail corridor including routes from, but not limited to, Chicago to Detroit with connecting routes to Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Flint and Lansing. A comprehensive plan should be implemented to be paid by the users of the service.

MAC supports continuing to encourage rails-to-trails as recreational tourism and economic development and to encourage communities to cooperate in forming an integrated trail system. MAC encourages the State to fund preservation of rail corridors.

MAC urges the Michigan Legislature to review and address:

- A. Railroad crossing fatalities and related liability, in particular at crossings without a signal where the use of such measures as reflectors on the back side of crossbucks would greatly reduce accidents.
- B. Transport/transfer of solid waste and hazardous waste materials along rural freight lines.
- C. MAC supports legislation converting the Michigan Rail Loan Assistance Program (MiRLAP) from a budgetary program to a statutory program. Making this program statutory will assure counties that this important economic development tool has some permanence and stability. MAC also supports legislative changes to MiRLAP that prohibit the Michigan Department of Transportation or the Transportation Commission from administratively imposing letters of credit, personal guarantees or other financial conditions on the loan. Such conditions have prevented counties and railroads from participating in MiRLAP for needed infrastructure improvements in their communities.

COUNTY AIRPORTS

MAC urges the Bureau of Aeronautics to adequately fund the growing need of Michigan air service.

MAC supports an increase in State funds to continue to match federal funding and to leverage as many federal dollars as possible in ALL categories.

ORV/OHV

Any future increases in fees associated with off-road vehicle permits shall be used only to maintain current trails, build new trails, and offer law enforcement grants for local governments (CVT's and Counties).

MAC supports legislation that would allow for ORVs to be used on the shoulders of County roads or State trunkline roads if a county resolution is adopted.

MAC supports legislation expanding the use of ORVs on state and federal forest roads.



2014 – 2015 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PLATFORM

HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES

The Michigan Association of Counties will support programs that:

- Promote stronger prevention services for all human services.
- Promote local control and local accountability to meet the needs of our communities.
- Offer services with standards and opportunities for innovation at the county government level.
- -Include adequate funding from state and federal sources for mandated services.
- Assure a user-friendly, accessible system.

Counties are an integral part of service delivery across the state. As Regional Prosperity discussions continue, we strongly encourage that county commissioners should have a seat at the table in the development of the prosperity plans.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

MAC views consumer services as the basic principle for coordinated decision making by county and state health care officials and board members.

MAC supports efforts to preserve and strengthen the role of Local Boards of Health, where applicable, as they play a vital role in providing health-related programs, disease prevention services and accreditation processes.

MAC supports adequate funding for mandated local public health services and urges the State to implement the state-local 50/50 cost sharing mechanism set out in the Public Health Code as the equitable mechanism for sharing in the cost of core public health services.

MAC encourages the Executive Office and the Legislature to continue to support county health plans as important components of the safety net and as vehicles for providing access to health care for low-income, uninsured persons.

MAC encourages the MDCH to re-establish the annual process for identifying the priority health problems facing the state, and for proposing the set of basic and required services to address the problems identified.

MAC supports the state of Michigan in remaining a smoke free state.

MEDICAID AND MANAGED CARE

MAC urges county, state, and federal government agencies and boards to be responsible partners in providing adequate and equitable health care services with appropriate state and federal funding.

MAC supports the continued active participation and decision-making role of Local Health Boards and Community Mental Health Boards in the implementation and delivery of health care services. MAC supports efforts to provide a health care safety net. MAC supports maximizing federal dollars to accomplish this goal.

MAC supports the flexible use of local funds to match and/or support Medicaid and Medicare services in order to support the human interest of our communities.

MAC supports merging Medicaid and Medicare dually eligible persons into one managed care program only if improved care is achieved, care settings are used appropriately and in the best interest of the beneficiary, reimbursement is not reduced, and county entities are fully engaged and fully funded.

MAC supports federal entitlement benefits for otherwise Medicaid and Medicare eligible prisoners - who have not been sentenced.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) ISSUES

MAC supports adequate funding for mandated mental health services.

MAC supports community and evidence based mental health care and proven prevention programs.

MAC encourages Mental Health Parity.

MAC supports SUD services, recognizing the need for prevention programs especially for our younger citizens who have specific needs for education and counseling services.

MAC supports PA 2 SUD funds in the manner in which the regional advisory committee finds appropriate with county member input.

MAC supports use of a portion of alcohol taxes and fees for the treatment of substance use disorders.

COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES

MAC recognizes the important role that Medical Care Facilities and Long Term Care Units play in guaranteeing access to long term care for county residents with special medical needs and supports an appropriate reimbursement and regulatory structure.

AGING ISSUES

MAC supports aging services, recognizing the need to coordinate county, state, and federal programs to meet the needs of the elderly in the least restrictive setting.

MAC supports quality long term care options focused on effective and person-centered solutions that promote choice and meets the needs of citizens.

MAC supports initiatives that encourage and prolong independence and strengthen communities through wellness programs, suitable housing, transportation, health care_choices, home delivered meals, in-home care, caregiver respite and senior volunteers.

WELFARE REFORM

MAC supports those programs and services that will result in increasing and encouraging self-sufficiency in meeting human needs.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

MAC encourages collaboration and communication between the Department of Veteran's Affairs and counties to ensure adequate funding, education services and appropriate and timely care are available for our veterans.

MAC supports directing funding to the local level for the most efficient programming and services for veterans.

COUNTY CHILD CARE FUND

MAC supports an increase in the state match for community-based prevention/intervention programs for children with proven outcomes. MAC believes such programs are the best alternative for children and will ultimately save both the counties and the state money.

MAC supports continuation of 50% cost share state funding for out-of-state placements made by the court in the child's best interest.

MAC supports county discretion in child welfare funding model discussions and allowing counties to decide how child care fund dollars are most appropriately allocated.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MAC supports funding for Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH).

MAC supports adequate funding for training of displaced workers as a means to address the skills gap that exists between workers' skills and employers' needs.

MAC supports extensive involvement and control by County Commissioners in local delivery of PATH.

MAC supports the delivery of these services by existing county-structured partnerships and labor market areas, known as the Michigan Works! System, codified in Michigan Law as the state's Workforce Investment System. To further encourage workforce development, MAC supports collaboration between educators, employers and MI Works.

MAC supports adequate federal and state funding for Michigan's Workforce Investment system. Michigan Works! receives TANF funds from the workforce development agency through an interdepartmental agreement with DHS to provide these services. These funds are appropriated through Michigan Legislature action. Most, if not all, funds appropriated should be allocated by formula to localities.

MAC urges the Michigan Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds for all workforce development activities, in general, and sufficient funds for the provision of services to welfare recipients.

(F)

**OFFICE OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TUSCOLA
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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MILA SACKETT
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

December 30, 2014

To: Mr. Michael Hoagland & Ms. Clayette Zechmeister

Re: Brevard Extraditions Inc.

Would you please be so kind and address these bills at the next board meeting.

Thank you.



Brevard Extraditions Inc.

dba U.S. Prisoner Transport
4150 Dow Rd. Suite 1
Melbourne, FL 32934

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
8/21/2014	18590

Bill To
Tuscola County Prosecutor's Office 207 East Grant St Suite 1 Caro, MI 48723 Attn: Candy Rogner

Terms
Net 30

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Transport	STARR, JOAN TRIP #140819 D/O DATE 8/18/14 TRANSPORTED FROM DICKINSON CO, KS TO TUSCOLA CO	988.5	0.80	790.80

Thank you for your business.

Total	\$790.80
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Brevard Extraditions Inc.

dba U.S. Prisoner Transport
4150 Dow Rd. Suite 1
Melbourne, FL 32934

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
3/23/2014	17512

Bill To
Tuscola County Prosecutor's Office 207 East Grant St Suite 1 Caro, MI 48723 Attn: Candy Rogner

Terms
Net 30

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Transport	TIMKO, BRIAN TRIP #140305 D/O DATE 3/18/14 TRANSPORTED FROM MONTEREY CORR, CA TO TUSCOLA CO	2,564.4	0.80	2,051.52

Thank you for your business.

Total	\$2,051.52
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Office Location:
652 S Hooper, St
Caro MI 48723
Mailing address:
518 Hamilton
Caro MI 48723



Phone:
(989) 672 1268
Fax (989) 672 1266

December 5, 2014

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
125 W Lincoln
Suite 500
Caro, MI 48723

Dear Members of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners:

I am writing today to introduce you to Connections Human Services and to share with you the role we play in serving the citizens of Tuscola County. Connections Human Services is a private non-profit service agency, which is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 C 3 organization. The organization was founded in 2011 to assist in filling human service gaps that were developing as a result service and budgetary reductions at the state and federal levels, and general economic decline.

In our strategic planning process we completed a community needs assessment, in that process one need presented itself clearly. There was a need for Adult Guardianship Services to be offered within the county. As, I, the Director, had provided direct and indirect human services in the community and had worked with guardians in the past our Board of Directors supported Adult Guardianship Services as an initial project. We have been providing this service since December of 2011.

We have learned much in the time we have offered this service. Historically, public guardians have been individuals who have maintained employment and provided for wards in their off hours. However, changes in public service funding and policy has changed the expectations of a guardian that creates conflict with employers. Service systems such as care facilities, behavioral health systems, human services, medical providers and legal processes require public guardians to be available during the business day.

We maintain data on our population for planning and development purposes. In review of the data we have noted that formal case management providers no longer provide the direct and support services that have been provided in the past. These duties include: securing appropriate housing that meets the wards' needs, link and secure benefits, and determine need for other services and make referrals. These tasks have been left to the guardians by default. In addition, the guardian is expected to be available 24/7 for emergencies; unfortunately wards and service providers do not always understand emergency. The role of public guardian has, over time, transitioned into a professional role in which the provider needs to have a broad knowledge of services, disabilities, benefit processes/ requirements, service practice parameters of funded services, and laws as they relate to the ward and guardianship.

We have learned in the last few years that despite a steady increase in persons who are aged 65 and older, (13.5% of Michigan's population is in this class while 17.5% of the population of Tuscola county is over the age of 65.) there is no state policy or funding to assure that these individuals who are incapacitated have adequate services or mechanism in which they have oversight. This population is a group that is increasingly at risk of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

To date, the State of Michigan practice has left the responsibilities of insuring oversight and protection of the incapacitated to the counties. Unfortunately, Tuscola is one of two counties in the State of Michigan that does not have the funds to support this population. The purchase of public guardianship services in Tuscola County is the responsibility of the individual. The State of Michigan has set a fee rate for those with Medicaid. That rate is \$60.00 per month if the individual can afford it. If the individual is in Adult Foster Care, in jail for over 30 days, or the cost of their care exceeds income or their benefit limit is below \$100.00 the ward can not pay for service and the expectation is the Guardianship service is provided at the cost of the Guardian.

Another lesson learned was that there is limited to no residential services that meet the needs of the Mentally Ill adult population who have significant behavioral issues and require daily life supervision and education to function within the community in a socially acceptable manor. As such incapacitated individuals are moved to other counties; we currently have wards placed in Huron, Jackson and Roscommon Counties. Incarceration and prison has been a reality for some of these individuals.

In our practice we have learned that the cost to provide the level of service expected with the professional personnel needed is costly. Whereas public agencies, and those organizations that bill insurance companies are reimbursed at a minimum of \$70.00 per hour for case management services. Connections Human Services was able to bill \$22.13 per hour for FY 2013 for the same services. Hourly cost for the same period was \$19.49 leaving the organization \$2.64 per hour to hire qualified personnel and to pay employee costs.

As a public guardian for Tuscola County, Connections Human Services is responsible for the following:

- Advocacy Services,
- Coordination of Services in which the ward is participating,
- Financial management and coordination of benefits such as, Social Security, Department of Human Services and the Veterans Administration.
- Attending court hearings in support of wards,
- Participating in Service Plans with service providers.
- Regular monitoring of ward within the community,
- Maintenance of financial records and management of expenditures,
- Provide 24/7 accessibility for emergencies in which consent is required.
- Responsibility for life decisions in regards to medical and legal decisions,
- Maintain involvement with families and supports to further enhance the lives of wards with those that have been significant and important to them.
- Assure that clothing and other needs are purchased and available to the ward.
- And preparing and submitting reports to the Court, Social Security, Social Services and VA as required.

In 2013 Connections Human Services provided services to 30 incapacitated individuals- of this group

- 6 individuals were open TBHS Medicaid cases ranging form 19-43 years of age. Average monthly need was 5.77 hours per case. This group is 20% of the population and utilizes 46% of the available resources

- 18 Individuals were individuals in facilities ages 20- 95 who were experiencing, severe health, brain injury and or dementia issues, these individuals had a history in our communities, they were nurses, authors, electricians, farmers, church leaders, auto workers, parents, hotel workers and veterans. This group required 2.97 hours per month per person. This group accounts for 60% of the population and utilized 24% of the total resources
- 6 Individuals were those who were able to remain in their homes with community and family support. Ages range from 37 to 80. These individuals have symptoms of dementia and or developmental delays and have the potential to be exploited by others. They require an average of 3.75 hours per person per month. This group accounted for 20% of the population and utilized 28% of the resources

The demand for services continues to grow. As of September 1, 2014 Connections Human Services have provided services to a total 46 individuals or an increase of 100% over 2013.

Current open cases for September 1, 2014 is 34; as 5 Guardianship cases have been transferred to family members or other supports and 7 individuals have passed away.

We have a great concern for the future of this vulnerable population as the age of our county citizens continues to increase and as we seem to be experiencing a significant number of special needs individuals reaching adulthood. These populations are as at risk; the risk to this group may be equal to or more than the risk of our abused and neglected children. Limited mental capacity and limited supports make them easy targets for exploitation and abuse. Although there is a mechanism in place to protect these individuals there are not the resources available to apply the safety net needed.

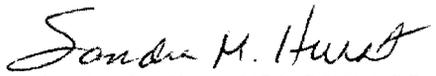
The Tuscola County Probate Judge monitors assignments closely; there are those situations in which family is, unwilling, unable or simply not appropriate to assume responsibility of the aging and failing family members. The need of assignment to a public guardian is done as a last resort. However, with a growth rate of 100% the current service will exceed its ability to be effective. Connections Human Services is prepared to offer a professional service that meets national and accreditation standards of care. To proactively meet current and immediate future needs, our members would benefit from a case manager or advocate to fill the gaps left by the public sector; this individual would be able to assist members with shopping and learning skills, advocating for benefits and services and monitoring progress, etc. Our members would also benefit from a part-time book-keeper whose sole responsibility is to assure that their finances are managed within a manner that meets finance standards; this individual would work with individuals in learning to manage their money to the best of their ability.

We have understood, from the creation of Connections Human Services that Tuscola County did not have the resources to fund Guardianship for Incapacitated adults. As such, the founders organized the service into a non-profit organization so that we may be able to take advantage of grants and/or donations. We communicate frequently with Judge Thane regarding possible grant or funding opportunities. We also communicate regarding pending legislative changes at the state and federal level that may impact funding and care to the Incapacitated Adults.

On behalf of our members, thank you for the time to review of our struggles and barriers. We simply ask for the support of the County Commissioners in addressing the needs of those who can not always speak for themselves. We ask that the Commission support and advocate for change at the legislative level and make us, or the court aware of any known opportunity that may lead to funding.

If it would assist the commissioners in any way I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further address this issue and to problem solve resolutions. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely


Sandra M. Hurst MBA BSW NCG
Connections Human Services

cc-Honorable Nancy K Thane Tuscola County Probate Court.

Mike Hoagland

From: Nancy Thane <nthane@tuscolacounty.org>
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2014 3:22 PM
To: 'Mike Hoagland'
Cc: jdiegel@tuscolacounty.org
Subject: RE: Connections Human Services

Mike,

I have received and read the request from Connections Human Services. I have shared the information with my court administrator. We both indicate that the GAL attorney line item and the Guardian line item are not for the types of services that Connection Human Services provides.

This may be an area that the Board may need to review in the future. I know that there are other counties that have Public Guardians funded by the county, i.e. Huron County. You may want to contact them for input.

Judge Thane

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Hoagland [mailto:mhoagland@tuscolacounty.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 4:13 PM
To: Nancy Thane Judge (Nancy Thane)
Subject: Connections Human Services

Judge Nancy

I just read a December 5, 2014 letter from Sandra M. Hurst (Director of Connections Human Services) on which you were copied. I have limited knowledge of guardianship services and was not aware of this organization. This is what I think I understand after reading the letter. Connections Human Services provides Adult Guardianship services. The need for Adult Guardianship services in the county is significantly increasing and it is a costly service to provide. For various reasons, it has become more difficult to retain adult guardians. Apparently, the organization is struggling financially and is seeking methods of solving their fiscal problem.

Is the county legally required to fund guardianship services? I assume we are not legally responsible and it is an individual responsibility, but probably more complicated. I did take a look at the court budget and there are funds in a GAL Attorney and Guardian line items, but no payments to Connections Human Services. Even if we do not have a legal responsibility, we may have a moral responsibility to evaluate financial assistance. The only thought I would have at this point is assessing the Senior Citizen Millage fund potential. Of course this would have to be for senior guardian services only and would need approval by the Senior Citizens Advisory Council. The financial ability of this fund is limited because additional travel and home delivered meal funding has had to be increased to meet growing demand. If any funding is possible it may have to be restricted to a one time allocation or annual allocation based on the amount of carryover funds. This millage is up for renewal in 2016.



Tuscola County Parcel Development

October 29, 2014

Mr. Walt Schlichting
 Equalization Director
 125 W Lincoln St
 Caro, MI 48723

Mr. Schlichting

Amalgam welcomes the opportunity to submit this proposal to develop parcel data for Tuscola County, Michigan. This proposal letter describes the proposed services and related costs for mapping parcels on an as needed basis.

Overview

Tuscola County is currently in the process of developing parcels in a digital format. Development of a county-wide digital parcel layer will provide the county, townships and villages with the foundation for a geographic information system (GIS) and web mapping services. This project will improve access to parcel information, enhance parcel maintenance and provide timely information for decision makers at all levels of government in the county.

Amalgam is proposing an open ended parcel development agreement to conduct mapping on an as needed basis. Parcels will be developed using the same data structure and processes that are currently used by Tuscola County. All parcels will be mapped by Amalgam using experienced data authors that have worked together on multiple parcel mapping projects in Michigan. Amalgam's data authors also conduct parcel updates for three counties on a quarterly basis and one county on an annual basis. The result is that our team is actively involved in parcel mapping at all levels on a consistent basis.

Process

Amalgam employs a parcel mapping process that promotes quality through standards and experienced data authors. Parcel mapping standards build process consistency for decision making and technical aspects, resulting in a high quality deliverable. Amalgam's mapping standards have been developed by experienced data authors who have worked together on multiple parcel mapping projects. The result is that Amalgam conducts mapping with a

knowledgeable team with expertise in both the technical and decision making tools required to create a quality parcel layer.

Parcel mapping will be conducted using ESRI ArcGIS software. Parcels will be mapped using both coordinate geometry (COGO) and manual mapping and follow industry accepted standards. All parcels will be mapped to the base data provided by Tuscola County as the primary control framework.

During the parcel mapping process issues or problems are likely to arise. Amalgam will utilize the problem tracking system that is employed by the current Tuscola County parcel mapping project to track and resolve each issue or problem. Often problem resolution requires some input from local officials. In these instances Amalgam forwards a map and description of the problem to the client for review and potential resolution. Amalgam conducts parcel mapping engaged with the client, actively pursuing local knowledge and input to improve the end product.

Data Integrity

Amalgam implements a range of process and programmatic routines to improve the quality of the deliverable. These routines are integrated into the project lifecycle and have been developed over years of experience. The first quality measure is Amalgam's process standards, which promote consistency both technically and in decision making. Amalgam integrates programmatic quality routines that include database validation, database scrubs for accuracy and completeness and topology execution to promote spatial integrity. Amalgam also implements a range of automation routines that are aimed at removing human error in regard to data entry.

Scope of Services

The following is the scope of services proposed by Amalgam. The services represent mapping on an as needed basis and can be modified by Tuscola County to meet specific needs or expectations.

1. Collect all source data including aerial imagery, land database, road centerlines, plats and all other relevant source data.
2. Map parcels using ESRI ArcGIS software using COGO and manual mapping techniques in a geodatabase environment.
 - a. Map all subdivisions (Traverse, Blocks, Lots, Parcels)
 - b. Populate attributes for all mapped features (Traverse, Blocks, Lots, Parcels)
3. Provide Tuscola County with problems and their descriptions for local review and potential resolution.
4. Provide Tuscola County with the following layers in an ESRI geodatabase format:
 - a. Subdivision Traverse

- b. Subdivision Blocks
 - c. Subdivision Lots
 - d. Parcels
 - e. Boundary Lines
5. Work closely with Tuscola County to conduct the project in a manner that meets or exceeds expectations.

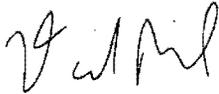
Fee Schedule

Amalgam has calculated fees based on previous parcel mapping projects of similar scope and size. The cost projection includes mapping parcels in Tuscola County, resulting in a seamless parcel layer for use in GIS or BS&A software. Final costs are dependent on the total number of parcels mapped.

Cost Per Parcel: \$4.00

Should you have any questions or require additional information please feel free to contact me at your convenience. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal and look forward to working with you on this project.

Best Regards,



David Nichol
Director of Projects
989.944.5188
dave@amalgamonline.com

Amalgam LLC
123 S. Washington St.
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858



APPLICATION

LEAD Tuscola Mission Statement:

A Process to **Lead, Educate And Develop** tomorrow's leaders today for Tuscola County

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

- Please complete each section completely.
- Type or print in black ink all required information.
- Letters of recommendation are required. Please attach to your application.
- Application must be signed by applicant and their sponsoring organization or employer, (where applicable)
- Application should be submitted by August 15, 2015 to be considered for this year's program.
- The program is limited to 20 participants.
- Application to LEAD Tuscola is open to all persons living or working in Tuscola County who demonstrate a commitment to Tuscola County.
- Each participant must be able to make a time commitment of at least one day per month, plus time outside of each session to work on individual projects.
- Nominations will be accepted from employers, public or private organizations, civic organizations to ensure a complete representation of Tuscola County. Nominees may nominate themselves for participation also.
- LEAD Tuscola is a 501c3 organization.

PROGRAM APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____

WORK NUMBER _____

FAX NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL** _____

YEARS IN TUSCOLA COUNTY _____ **DATE OF BIRTH** _____

EDUCATION

Beginning with high school, list all colleges, trade schools or business schools you have attended. Also list any military time.

NAME AND CITY OF SCHOOL	FROM/TO	AREA OF STUDY
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYMENT

PRESENT EMPLOYER _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ **FAX NUMBER** _____

TITLE _____ **EMPLOYED SINCE** _____

LIST ANY PREVIOUS EMPLOYERS BEGINNING WITH THE MOST RECENT

ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

List in order of importance to you, and organizations or community involvement have participated in. (Examples include church, Rotary, 4-H, Christmas in July, etc.)

What do you consider to be your biggest contribution to Tuscola County? If you have not been involved in community activities until now, what has changed to get you more involved?

What do you expect to gain from participating in LEAD Tuscola?

List problems/challenges facing Tuscola County and its residents at this time?

TUITION

Final acceptance into the LEAD Tuscola program will be based on the completed application and payment of tuition. You or your sponsor/employer's tuition fee is \$625 and is due on September 3, 2015. The tuition covers all class materials, text books, meals, and recognition banquet. This tuition is non-refundable. Scholarships and payment plans may be available, contact LEAD Tuscola for information.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Participants are required to attend all sessions to be eligible to receive recognition for completing the LEAD Tuscola program. The orientation weekend on September 18 (starting about 2:00 p.m.) & September 19 (ending about 2 p.m.), 2015 is mandatory. It is in your best interest to be sure you can attend all the required sessions before committing to the program. Each participant will also be expected to complete some projects outside the scheduled training times.

I understand that it is very important for me to attend all the sessions that are scheduled for LEAD Tuscola. I understand the purpose of the program is to Lead, Educate, and Develop tomorrow's leaders today for Tuscola County and I agree to devote the required time and energy necessary to make this a positive experience for myself and for Tuscola County.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

If accepted for participation in LEAD Tuscola I will allow the use of my name and employer/organization for promotional purposes.

SPONSOR/EMPLOYER COMMITMENT

Our organization will pay the tuition fees for this LEAD Tuscola participant by September 1.

FIRM NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE: _____

Return completed application form to:

LEAD TUSCOLA
C/O Ruth Steele
1445 Eudora Dr.
Caro, Michigan, 48723
CONTACT:
PHONE: 989-673-2516
FAX: 989-872-4073
E-MAIL: LEADtuscola@gmail.com

Mike Hoagland

From: Steve Anderson <sanderson@tuscolacounty.org>
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 9:54 AM
To: Shelly Iliff
Cc: Mike Hoagland
Subject: Tuscola County

Shelly.

Hope the Holidays were good for you and your family, now that we are all back to reality... Anyhow, just giving you a heads up, I just applied to the Enbridge Safe Communities grant for the Tuscola County GIS implementation project again.

Thanks for your help on the FY 2014 as we received \$1000.00 towards the project that was greatly appreciated by everyone here. We are using the money from that grant and hopefully the upcoming successful grant application to hire an outside contractor to assist in drawing in the parcels on the GIS software. Our Equalization Director, Walt Schlichting, gave me a tour of what his office has been able to accomplish so far and I believe that once completed, it will be a valuable tool for all first responders in the county. Walt told me that since his office staff is so small, they are going to contract with an outside contractor to help draw in the parcel maps, which in turn will speed up the process immensely. According to him, it costs roughly \$4.00 for each parcel to be loaded onto the GIS software, so every additional dollar we can obtain goes a long way in trying to reach our goal of having the whole county completed.

Thanks again for the financial help that Enbridge has offered all of us in Tuscola County with your assistance.

steve

--
Deputy Steven Anderson
Emergency Services Coordinator
420 Court St. Suite #1
Caro, MI 48723
Office # 989-673-5181
Fax # 989-673-5182

www.aryoureadysetsafe.com



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(K)

Mike Hoagland

From: Mike Hoagland <mhoagland@tuscolacounty.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 2:15 PM
To: ctrisch@tuscolacounty.org; 'Bardwell Thom'; 'Bierlein Matthew'; 'Kirkpatrick Craig'; 'Roger Allen'
Subject: FW: Amended Agenda and Minutes for HSCC - Tuesday, Jan. 13th @ 8:15 am - Technology Center
Attachments: HSCC Board Minutes -10-14-14.docx; HSCC Board Agenda 1-13-15.doc

Matt

Attached is the agenda for the January 13, 2015 Human Services Coordinating Council meeting. We discussed at a recent board of commissioners meeting the importance of having a more specific agenda item for these meetings that covers preventive methods regarding abused, neglected and delinquent children. It is interesting that the agenda has an item called "start now" with Susan Walker, Karen Southgate and Judge Thane listed to speak. Hopefully this will be that directed discussion of preventive approaches to childcare problems that we want. If not maybe you can find a way to ask for this discussion on future agenda's.

Mike

From: Susan Walker [mailto:susaneawalker@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:10 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Amended Agenda and Minutes for HSCC - Tuesday, Jan. 13th @ 8:15 am - Technology Center

Happy New Year HSCC Members,

Attached is the amended agenda and the Oct. 2014 minutes for our meeting this coming Tuesday.
Hope to see you then! Suze

--

"There is a brilliant child locked within every student." Marva Collins

Please like on Facebook "GREAT START TUSCOLA" & "TUSCOLA IMAGINATION LIBRARY".

Mike Hoagland

From: Laura Tyll <laura@huroncounty.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 2:32 PM
To: sley@a-f.k12.mi.us; dfoster@a-f.k12.mi.us; Ms. Marion Herrington; dlongbethany@gmail.com; dmerchant@pinerivertwp.org; Lynn Tyll; tyll@att.net; Mr. Matthew Booms; goldenelm90@aol.com; ckernsconsulting@aol.com; haggerty@greatlakes.net; Mr. Charles Timmons; Mr. William Renn; Richard Sundquist; ijensen@clarkhill.com; arichner@clarkhill.com; ed spannagel; rdehmel37@gmail.com; tpawlowski@deckerville.k12.mi.us; kennwimmer@yahoo.com; nora@deltacountymy.org; adminnicole@dickinsoncounty.mi.gov; kma.michigan@gmail.com; gilfordtwp@airadv.net; Todfackler@sbcglobal.net; jowolschlager@yahoo.com; mmandich@airadv.net; Mr. Jeff Huff; rexsmith@gratiotmi.com; Dr. Jan Amsterburg; Mr. Donald Schurr; clark elftman; Mr. Dave Peruski; Ron Wruble; Mr. John Bodis; Jeremy Tietz; essenmacherj@co.huron.mi.us; nhentschl@comcast.net; Ms. Sherry Learman; Joseph Murphy; Mr. Walt Schlichting; jdaz@stclaircounty.org; Knizacky, Fabian; truthier@masoncounty.net; Mike Harris; beyerjerry@yahoo.com; Mr. Terry O'Connor; Shelly Baumeister; equalization@missaukee.org; clerk@missaukee.org; Larry Krohn; equal@osceolacounty.mi.com; rcspoon09@hotmail.com; rgrose@saginawtownship.net; Wade Mazure; Ms. Kathy Dorman; Ms. Wendi Willing; Mr. Duane Lange; rfalls@sanilacroads.com; Paul Ganley; joecwhite@yahoo.com; Karen Heleski; ladonnavolmering@hotmail.com; dick.jane@echoicemi.com; sigelassessing@gmail.com; jdiaz@stclaircounty.org; Mike Hoagland; Gene Pierce; mzawerucha@tuscolaroad.org; Tom Armstrong; winsortownship@yahoo.com; johnp@avci.net; Jerry Rhode; dons@airadvantage.net; kdesimpelare@yahoo.com; mark cunningham; wc48601@aol.com; donoldendorf@gmail.com; rsyrek@sisd.cc; Michael Krause; Carl Osentoski; Laura Tyll; johnmcquillan@att.net
Subject: MREC Meeting - Hold the Date

There will be a meeting on January 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the status of MREC and give you update on activities. The meeting will be held at Tuscola Technology Center -1401 Cleaver Rd.- Caro, MI. I will send out a agenda at a later date, and the conference call number for anyone who cannot make it. Could you email me your cell phone number for our records, in case of cancellation. Thanks.

--

Laura Tyll
 Huron County EDC
 250 E. Huron Ave. #303
 Bad Axe, MI 48413
 989.269.6431
www.huroncounty.com

Mike Hoagland



From: Mike Hoagland <mhoagland@tuscolacounty.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:13 PM
To: 'Kathy Dorman - Administrator'
Subject: RE: Tri-County meeting

Great job Kathy! See you on the 21st.

From: Kathy Dorman - Administrator [mailto:kdorman@sanilacounty.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:05 PM
To: 'Mike Hoagland'
Subject: RE: Tri-County meeting

Thanks Mike. I understand formal to mean Derek Bradshaw coming with a formal presentation versus our EDC directors giving an informal update. I'll see if Derek can present to the tri-county group as well as to the individual county boards.

I have the DEQ speaker lined up on recycling, Sen. Pavlov coming on the State's sales tax ballot proposal and impact on road funding, Regional Prosperity and update on Sanilac GIS program as well as information on new Sanilac millage. I think that will fill close to two hours.

Kathleen Dorman
Sanilac County Administrator
60 West Sanilac Ave., Room 102
Sandusky, MI 48471
PH: (810) 648-2933
Fax: (810) 648-2830
Email: kdorman@sanilacounty.net

From: Mike Hoagland [mailto:mhoagland@tuscolacounty.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Dorman Kathy; JODI ESSENMACHER
Subject: FW: Tri-County meeting

Hi Kathy

In order to get as much as possible from this \$250,000 plan my thought is formal for both the three county meeting and also when individual county presentations are madethat way some commissioners could hear it twice which could also be helpful.....I am not sure what formal versus informal means.....

Happy new year and hope all is going well.

Mike

From: Kathy Dorman - Administrator [mailto:kdorman@sanilacounty.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 11:16 AM
To: 'Mike Hoagland'; JODI ESSENMACHER
Subject: Tri-County meeting

Please add to your calendar a tri-county meeting on January 21, 2015, at 2:00 to your calendar. I will be send out an agenda by the end of the week.

One item on the agenda is an update on the regional prosperity plan. Carl Osentoski wants to know if we want a formal or informal presentation. The Regional Prosperity Board plans to provide a formal presentation to each county board and since there will be three boards in the room at this tri-county meeting he was hoping to report to all three at once. My first reaction was to say, informal, as each county is generally represented by two or three commissioners but thought I would check with you first. What do you think? Would you rather have a formal presentation to your full board in your county or take care of this at the tri-county meeting.

Kathleen Dorman
Sanilac County Administrator
60 West Sanilac Ave., Room 102
Sandusky, MI 48471
PH: (810) 648-2933
Fax: (810) 648-2830
Email: kdorman@sanilaccounty.net

**Cass River Greenway
2014 Year in Review
By CRG Chairman, Robert Zeilinger**



Cass River Greenway
c/o 240 w. Genesee St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Community Membership and Agency Support:

Organized in 2007, the Cass River Greenway Committee membership includes volunteer residents and municipal leaders from cities, communities and townships along the Cass River from Cass City downstream to Bridgeport. Expanding the volunteer base for work on the Cass River Greenway project is critical to achieving many of the committee's goals, and we welcome additional volunteers.

The Cass River Greenway Committee is strongly supported by federal, state and county agencies whose representatives are members of the committee. They include: MDEQ Water Bureau, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Saginaw Bay RC&D, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, UM Flint-University Outreach, Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority, Saginaw and Tuscola County Conservation Districts, Tuscola County Road Commission, and The Nature Conservancy.

Goals Developed by the Cass River Greenway Committee:

- Develop Recreation Opportunities on the Cass River and along its corridor
- Encourage Preservation of Wildlife Habitat and Critical Natural Lands
- Improve Water Quality of the Cass River

Goal – Develop Recreation Opportunities on the Cass River and along its corridor:

The design and construction of a water trail on the Cass River is our top priority for this goal. Six additional launches are currently planned with construction targeted for 2015. They include; Bridgeport at Davis Park, Bridgeport at Dixie Highway, downtown Frankenmuth at the fish passage rock ramp, downtown Vassar, Vassar Township at Caine Road and Juniata Township at M-46. Major funders include Saginaw Bay WIN, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Frankenmuth Jaycees, Mr. John Hoffman, Andersen Foundation, McNally Family Foundation, Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, and Morley Foundation.

The Lower Cass River Water Trail Map can be downloaded from our web site www.cassriver.org.

The 3rd Annual Float and Swim the Cass River was held in June. Eight swimmers accompanied by two pontoon boats and approximately 30 kayaks and canoes made the swim/float from Tuscola to Frankenmuth.

Due in part to the success of the Float and Swim the Cass events; the 2nd Annual Triathlon (The Bavarian Inn Experience) was held on August 2. Over 400 participants from across the mid-west and Canada registered for the event (swim, bike and run). The event was very well organized and feedback from the participants was very positive. It is expected the event will be held again in 2015.

Goal – Encourage Preservation of Wildlife Habitat and Critical Natural Lands:

The preservation of scenic vistas and wildlife habitat is important to a vibrant and healthy watershed. In partnership with UM Flint – University Outreach, the Cass River Greenway has completed and released a Natural Lands Inventory and Assessment document. The study involved an assessment of existing habitat lands (forests, grasslands, wetlands, etc.) and ranked them as to their value/importance to sustaining wildlife populations and environmental processes. The scope of the study included six townships along the Cass River from Bridgeport upstream to Caro. The townships included Bridgeport, Frankenmuth, Tuscola, Vassar, Juniata, and Indian Fields. The report and individual township maps are available on our web site www.cassriver.org and can be purchased from Frankenmuth Printing.

The second initiative in this area is a Phragmites control program. Phragmites is a non-native, invasive reed that threatens the ecological health of wetlands and the shorelines of lakes and rivers. Phragmites are extremely difficult to eradicate once they become well established, as evidenced by their total domination in many areas around the Saginaw Bay and area rivers. To date we have observed very little Phragmites on the banks of the Cass River. However, it is present and expanding along many roadside ditches in our area. Our intent is to eradicate Phragmites in our area before it invades the Cass River. This effort began in 2010 with a demonstration treatment project on five sites. Since then we have partnered with the Saginaw and Tuscola County Road Commissions to locate and treat phragmites along roadways in 11 townships along the Cass River corridor. In addition, approximately 6 private properties have been treated each year. We plan on continuing this effort and expanding our outreach to private property owners in 2015. Additionally, the Cass River Greenway is now a member of the Saginaw Bay Cooperative Weed Management Area organization (a group of organizations focused on leveraging resources to address invasive plants that threaten our environment). The Saginaw Bay CWMA has submitted a grant request for funding to accelerate the treatment of invasive plants in our area.

Goal – Improve Water Quality of the Cass River:

Caro hosted the 6th Annual Cass River Clean Up on July 26. Forty-five volunteers worked to clean up the river from the Caro dam downstream to the MDOT Park on M-46. Two stake trucks full of metals, plastics and approximately 55 tires were collected. Next year's clean up will be hosted by Bridgeport.

Improvement of river water quality is a watershed wide activity and involves a long-term commitment. In late 2010 the Michigan DEQ announced the Cass River Watershed had been selected for funding of a Watershed Management Plan project. This is an extremely important and necessary step in developing a long-term effort to improve water quality in the Cass River. The project study and on-the-ground work was completed in 2013 and a report compiled in 2014. The Michigan DEQ and the Federal EPA have now approved the Cass River Watershed Management Plan. Additionally, a major funding request, based on the issues identified in the "plan", has been submitted to the MDEQ. The Watershed Management Plan can be found on our web site www.cassriver.org.

In August 2011 the Michigan DEQ awarded the Cass River Greenway a Water Quality Monitoring Project grant for a two-year study of the Cass River, testing water quality from sites upstream of Cass City to Bridgeport. Testing parameters included phosphorus, suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, biological oxygen demand, fecal coliform, turbidity, nitrates and ph. The project was managed by Environmental Science Solutions, and supported by area wastewater treatment plants and Saginaw Valley State University. A final report was submitted and approved by the MDEQ. The results of the study indicated the overall quality of the water in the Cass River is "Good" and safe for recreational use. However, several tests under certain conditions indicated the potential for short term elevated levels of e-coli originating from tributary streams. The results of the study were incorporated into the Watershed Management Plan study.

Saginaw Bay RC&D has successfully led an initiative to secure funding for steam bank erosion control on the Cass River. Major donors include: Saginaw Bay WIN, Bay Area Community Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Star of the West Milling Co. and Frankenmuth Conservation Club. Work is planned for 2015 and 2016.

Thank you for your involvement and support.