

TUSCOLA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, Michigan 48723

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 @ 5:00 P.M. – Commissioners' Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.
- II. ROLL CALL –** Zygmunt Dworzecki, Cynthia Kapa, Lonnie Kester, Keith Kosik, Nancy Barrios, lone Vyse, Board Representative Matt Bierlein and Louis Smallwood. Guests – Mark B from NextEra Energy
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –** Motion by Zygmunt Dworzecki and supported by Lonnie Kester to approve the minutes of April 3, 2013. Motion carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** Motion by Lonnie Kester supported by Nancy Barrios to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT-** None.
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA –** Zygmunt briefly discussed the notification regarding accessing the county computers due to recent server modifications. lone reported that she had a conversation with Vassar Township Clerk, Mike Clinesmith regarding updated county Master Plan documents.
- VII. OLD BUSINESS –**
 - A. Tuscola County General Development Plan –** Chair, lone Vyse, reported that the final costs of posting, printing and mailing the 2013 Master Plan update was \$274.34, which was well under budget.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS –**
 - A. PA 116, Almer Township, Mark Dost, 40 acres, section 27.**
 - B. PA 116, Fremont Township, Paul Dost, 203.11 acres, Section 6.** Motion by Lonnie Kester, supported by Nancy Barrios to recommend approval of items “A” for Mark Dost, and “B” for Paul Dost. Motion carried.
 - C. PA 116, Fremont Township, Paul Dost Farms (1), 78.58 acres, Section 2.**
 - D. PA 116, Fremont Township, Paul Dost Farms (2), 40 acres, Section 7.**
 - E. PA 116, Fremont Township, Paul Dost Farms (3), 76 acres, Section 7.**

Motion by Zygmunt Dworzecki, supported by Keith Kosik to recommend approval of items “C” “D” and “E” for Paul Dost Farms, upon completion of sections 1 and 2 by township clerk on item “D” and verification that the LLC is only in the name of the one individual who submitted the application. Motion carried.
 - F. PA 116, Watertown Township, Florennce Stille, 45 acres, Section 2.** Motion by Zygmunt Dworzecki and supported by Lonnie Kester to recommend approval after completion of # years requested, Section # on map and township clerk needs to complete her portion. Motion carried.
 - G. Gilford Township, Amendment to Zoning Ordinance.** Motion by lone Vyse, supported by Zygmunt Dworzecki to recommend approval of Gilford Township Zoning Ordinance. Motion carried.
 - H. Vassar Township, Receipt of Master Plan –** Motion by Zygmunt Dzworecki and support by Lonnie Kester to file the submitted Master Plan dated 1998, and to recommend that the Vassar Township Planning Commission address the required 5 year review process which is overdue. Motion carried
 - I.** Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of Prime Minister, Ottawa Canada – Chair lone Vyse read the letter acknowledging receipt of our letter requesting support of efforts around fresh water lakes low water issues.
 - J.** Letter from Department of Army Corps of Engineers – “Waterways, Wetlands and You” presentation and workshop in Caseville on May 23 at 2 PM at City Hall Community Room, and in Cedarville in the UP on June 5th.
- IX. OTHER, ON-GOING BUSINESS:**
 - Miscellaneous Documents –** Chair lone Vyse distributed informational packets, including updated Master Plan “certification” sheets to update Planning Commission member’s books.
 - Coordinator Clerk.** Cindy Kapa was appointed to the position, which receives a stipend and additional mileage allocation.

Planning Commission Newsletter was discussed. Motion by Keith Kosik, supported by Cindy Kapa to update and send Planning Commission Newsletter. Motion carried. Cindy Kapa will draft a section on Freedom of Information Act requirements which will be included in the next newsletter.

Meeting Schedule – Nancy will email the updated meeting schedule so members can update municipality packets.

Education/Training: Nancy Barrios reported that she had completed the Citizen Planner Program. There was discussion regarding future attendees.

Parks & Recreation: Cindy Kapa reported that a trial “on-line meeting” was attempted. Further discussion to follow regarding feasibility, implementation, posting requirements, etc .

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative: (see attached)

Township Communications: Keith Kosik reported that he had met with Fairgrove and Gilford Townships.

East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG): (see attached) Zygmunt stated that the Food Hub meeting scheduled for May 2nd will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Cass City Municipal Bldg.

State Law Information Review 2012 Budget Review: None.

X. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 6:01PM

SBCI Meeting Report

The Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative meeting was held April 11, 2013 in Bay County for the purpose of addressing any ongoing projects in the SBCI area of concern. They will be holding more meetings to revamp the plan that was made in 2006. Some areas of concern are combined to specific groups to progress to the next level so they can be removed from the list of concerns. Commissioner Roger Allen is to give information on the private beach at Sunset Marina (as there is public access for a fee) on its condition and for the problem of Phragmites and control efforts in Tuscola County.

There were project reviews and progress reports for different areas. The reasoning was to not duplicate projects but to combine the efforts where needed.

The April 26, 2013 meeting was held to review DNR’s plan on how to utilize public lands by either selling them off or leasing to energy companies was the main area of concern. This is driven by the governor and energy companies.

East Michigan Council of Governments

TLAG (Transportation, Land Use, and GIS Committee) held its meeting April 12, 2013 just to refocus on past projects and new projects happening in the region. Meetings are suspended until new projects come in.

RED Team has several projects going on in the region. The first one is “Asset Based Community Development” and the other is “Steering Committee for Export Strategies”. These two major regional projects are intertwined, as the focus is to bring economic growth to the region. Zygmunt Dworzecki is a working participant to both projects. Presently the growth focus being south of I-69 by the governor and MEDC; these projects will help Mid-Michigan and Northern communities for viable sustained economic growth in the Region with the data collected.

The April 26, 2013 meeting in Lansing was the meeting of EREN (Export Resource and Export Network [core group]). In attendance was Larry Karnes, MDOT Freight Policy Specialist, giving an update on MDOT Freight infrastructure and the working of a new rail plan for the state to help leverage money for the federal government to help improve the rail infrastructure in the region?

A report on the Ports’ survey was given for the east side of the state. There is going to be a new rail tunnel built between Canada and the United States as the others are old and cannot accommodate the new railcars. A private port is being built also to accommodate larger cargo ships for freight.

Other Area News

SBCI Meeting Report

On May 2, 2013 at 10 a.m., there will be a meeting in Cass City on a possible Area Food Hub for Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties. The meeting will be to help determine if there is enough support to make this happen. It seems that we will have a full house with some local farmers, business leaders, DTE, Consumers', MEDC, EMCOG and other interested parties. We are lacking a facility like this in the Thumb Area. Zygmunt Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Hal Hudson, and Carl Osentoski (Huron County) were part of an initial Food Assessment Project for the EMCOG Region; this project initiative resulted from the last project information.

Submitted by: Zygmunt Dworzecki



Lone Vyse, Chairman



Nancy Barrios, Secretary