

GENESEE-LAPEER-SHIAWASSEE REGION V PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Genesee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Region V Planning and Development Commission met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in the Harris Auditorium of the Genesee County Administration Building, on the third floor, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan.

Chairperson VanHaften called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

A. Roll Call

Present: Richard VanHaften, Destain Gingell, Ed Benning, Gregory Brodeur, Cathy Lane, Gabriel Lossing, Shawnice Dorsey, Alan Himelhoch and Chris Durgan

Absent/Excused: Chris Cannon, Jeffrey Kelley, Tom Kohlman, Robert Johnson, Mike Hemmingsen and Derek Bradshaw

Others Present: William Hamilton, Jason Nordberg, Chris Durgan, Jacob Maurer, and Renate Soto

B. Approval of the Minutes of the GLS Region V PDC Regular Meeting held January 24, 2023

Motion: Action: Approve, **Moved by** Cathy Lane, **Supported by** Gregory Brodeur, to approve the minutes of the GLS Region V PDC regular meeting held January 24, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file in the GCMPC office)

C. Approval of the Agenda of GLS Region V PDC Meeting to be held March 28, 2023

Motion: Action: Motion to approve the agenda. **Moved by** Alan Himelhoch, **Supported by** Ed Benning, to approve the agenda of the GLS Region V PDC meeting to be held March 28, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

D. Opportunity for the Public to Address the GLS Region V PDC

No one spoke at this time.

E. Communications

1. City of Imlay City 2023-2027 Community Recreation Plan

Mr. Jacob Maurer stated that we received notification from the City of Imlay City that their Community Recreation Plan was adopted.

2. Genesee County Parks and Recreation: Preservation of a Historic Pedestrian Bridge Crossing the Flint River within the Richfield County Park

Mr. Maurer stated that this bridge was constructed approximately 100 years ago and this is just the first step toward revitalizing the bridge.

3. Genesee County Parks and Recreation: Handicap Accessible Launch on the Flint River at the Watershed Coalition Offices

Mr. Maurer stated that this is a partnership with the Watershed Coalition to apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant to develop a handicap accessible launch on the Flint River at the Flint River Watershed Coalition offices.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Financial Report

1. Draft FY 2023 Financials for October 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023

Chris Durgan reviewed the draft FY 2023 financials for the committee, including the Revenue Budget Variance, the Statement of Expenditures, and the Balance Sheet.

Motion: Action: To approve the Draft FY 2023 Financials. **Moved by** Cathy Lane, **Supported by** Destain Gingell, to approve the Draft FY 2023 Financials for October 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Checks

Chairperson Van Haften reviewed the checks for the committee. The checks totaled \$4,014.23.

Motion: Action: Approve the payment of the checks. **Moved by** Ed Benning, **Supported by** Alan Himelhoch, to approve the checks in the amount of \$4,014.23 and authorize signing by the proper authorities.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

B. Election of Officers

Chairperson Van Haften opened the floor for nominations for the Committee Officers. Alan Himelhoch **Supported by** Cathy Lane nominated the current officers; Richard Van Haften as Chairperson, Gregory Brodeur as Vice-Chair and Derek Bradshaw as Fiscal Officer, to stay in their current positions for one more year.

Motion: Action: Approve the Election of Officers. **Moved by** Alan Himelhoch, **Supported by** Cathy Lane, to approve the Election of Officers.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. MAR Update

Ms. Chris Durgan stated that GCMPC staff received information regarding the Michigan Statewide Housing Plan. Last year, the governor put together a group to create the Plan to address some of the housing issues the state is facing. The Plan has been finalized and the group is now deciding how to allocate the funds that will be distributed under the Plan, most of which will be coming from ARPA funding. The funding amounts have not been released yet. Meetings have begun with groups of housing experts, and they are looking to create a regional approach on how those funds will be distributed by creating Regional Housing Partnerships (RHP). The GLS Region V Commission will fall under the Region 6 RHP, similar to the Regional Prosperity Initiative several years ago. Region 6

would include Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties, as well as some counties in the Michigan Thumb area. At a recent Statewide Housing Plan meeting, area agencies were asked if they had any interest in creating an Action Plan for Region 6. Ms. Durgan stated that after discussion in our office, GCMPC is considering this and has expressed interest in coordinating this effort. She stated that at this point, we are not sure how the agencies will get chosen for this task, but we will keep the Region V Commission informed as we hear more about this project. Discussion ensued.

B. 2023 PASER Survey

Mr. Maurer stated that Lapeer and Shiawassee County federal-aid and public local roads will be rated using the PASER Road Rating System. Staff has begun reaching out to area road agencies in Shiawassee and Lapeer Counties to start setting up schedules to get the PASER ratings started. The PASER crew will consist of representatives from both Region V and a County Road Commission. Local Road Agencies will be able to participate within their boundaries. Participating agencies that would like to be reimbursed for time spent conducting PASER studies, will be required to take part in 3 courses that will be offered this Spring and Summer. Staff will continue to reach out in the next few weeks to set up and finalize the calendar to conduct the road ratings.

C. GLS Region V Coordinated Transit-Human Service Plan Development

Mr. Maurer stated that staff has been assisting the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Passenger Transportation (MDOT OPT), in the development of coordinated transportation plans to help identify mobility needs and potential improvements in our transit systems. Around 30 people from Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties attended the first focus group for Region V on March 22, 2023. Discussions focused on new and upcoming technologies, supporting our current transit services, better rural services, and interests in regional transit services, etc. There will be another meeting in May; staff will let the Committee know the details when finalized.

D. Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO) Technical Assistance and Project Match Funding MIO

Mr. Maurer stated the MIO has released a Technical Assistance Program that can help with planning for matching grants for local units of government. This program will be funneled through regional planning agencies such as Region V. In the Region V area, the MIO has identified up to \$240,000 in grant development technical assistance as well as \$726,000 for matching funds. This funding will be available through 2026. Staff has prepared a draft proposal and summary of the information for the Committee's review. While staff is not asking for any action today, this proposal is intended to start the conversation with this Committee. Staff is here to work with each of the 3 counties in the Region V area to determine how the funding would be distributed to each county and what projects to fund. Discussion ensued.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Van Haften addressed a couple visitors to the meeting and asked if they had any questions, information to add to the discussion, etc. Mr. William Hamilton stated that he was here to announce the addition of new Committee member Mr. Gabriel Lossing, who was appointed by the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Lossing introduced himself and Chairperson Van Haften welcomed him to the Committee.

Mr. Brodeur requested that the name cards identifying Committee members also indicate what agency and/or County that member is representing.

Mr. Benning stated that he just recently returned from Washington DC, where he had the opportunity to attend FTA meetings to discuss a massive hydrogen expansion project which could include the addition of 16-18 vehicles. This would potentially increase the MTA's total hydrogen vehicles to 21. MTA is also partnering with area Universities to create an education center that would provide student training for alternative fuels. This funding could be up to \$50 million. Mr. Benning also stated that MTA is working with the State of Michigan and 2 different companies to bring forward their first two autonomous vehicles that would run from the Cultural Center to Downtown Flint and back.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Van Haften adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Renate Soto, Secretary
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission