

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Roll was called. Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Christians, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Walker and Mr. Morse.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Ms. Suzie Knoll, Oceana County Conservation District; Ms. Erin Kuhn, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; and Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Moved by Mr. Christians and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021 and the September 18, 2021, Planning & Environmental Services Committee.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission, offered support for Ms. Suzie Knoll and the Conservation District.

Ms. Suzie Knoll, Executive Director of Oceana County Conservation District, provided a brief history of conservation districts and an updated overview of the many programs and services provided. She pointed out that the Conservation District is considered to be a local unit of State government. Currently there has been no state funding and have been unfunded since 2008. They have relied on the money from various fund-raising efforts as well as the funding received from the County for providing services. She also reported that recently the Michigan House and Senate have requested \$3,000,000 to support the Conservation Districts which would be approximately \$40,000 per conservation district. Ms. Knoll stated that this will increase and enhance the services that are currently provided. In closing, Ms. Knoll expressed her appreciation to the board for their continued support.

Ms. Erin Kuhn, Executive Director of West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), to provide an update on the services offered. She stated that WMSRDC was established 50 years ago. She explained the evolvement of WMSRDC to what it is today. Originally in 1970, they were formed to include Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa Counties and in 1991 they were realigned to include Lake, Newaygo, Mason, Oceana, and Muskegon. She continued with the various services available as well as the Asset Management Readiness Assessment Scale that was recently introduced to help infrastructure owners understand, measure, and advance their asset management proficiency. She also noted the local park projects that they assisted with recently.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution making appointments to the Oceana County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority's Board of Directors. This would fill most of the positions available.

Public Comment

Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident, voiced her concern for the elected officials that have been suggested to be on the Oceana County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority's Board of Directors.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Morse adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk