

SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Manchester Village Offices
DRAFT MINUTES of August 10, 2005

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Ron Mann in the absence of Chair Pat Vaillencourt and Vice-Chair Bob Little
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Representatives present: Gary Blades/Sharon, George Daubner/Manchester, Jim Fish/Bridgewater, Karl Racenis/Manchester Village, Peter DeLoof/Freedom, Ron Ellison/Manchester Schools, Ron Mann/Manchester Twp, Tania Kersey/Bridgewater, Tom Lavender/Sharon,
Others present: 12 Guests - Brian Sharkey/WCRC, Carleen Nelson-Nesvig/Dexter, Cindy Carver/Bridgewater, Dick Irwin/Sharon, Jan Godek/Lodi, Jennifer Alexa/Freedom, Krish Aekbote/WCounty, Larry Lindemann/Freedom, Ray Berg/Freedom, Sara Bassett/Freedom, Steve Solowczuk/Saline, Uma Harithsa/WCounty.
4. Introductions circulated
5. Draft agenda approved after moving Wireless Project Report earlier in the meeting. Motion by Jim Fish, second by Tom Lavender, passed.
6. Minutes of June 8, 2005 approved with spelling correction on page three "GIS Aerial". Motion by Jim Fish, second by Karl Racenis, passed.

Wireless Project Report - Ray Berg: Provided a written report with an update to reflect the busy schedule of activities from June-August including subcommittees meeting to compile information from and interview 18 entities. Other areas of progress include: Request for Proposals will be distributed for September issuance; Distribution of and encouraging participation in the County-wide survey; Prepare and introduce draft Master Participation Agreement; Develop Business Plan; Submit Pilot Applications.

Ray introduced Uma Harithsa of Washtenaw County Support Services who detailed the update regarding the 18 interviewed entities and preliminary survey results. Uma discussed the preferred timing of the pilot program to be Spring time. She further discussed the Master Participation Agreement that was introduced at two area meetings. Uma explained that the pilot program is preferred to be a topographically diverse area.

Ms. Harithsa welcomed questions and discussion continued, detailed below. Ray Berg circulated a paper survey and encouraged participation among members and guests.

What kind of technology are they talking about using?

A: WI-FI and WI-MAX. Prefer that the technology will be compatible with existing equipment, reducing the need for hardware upgrades.

What is expected to be the transmission mechanism and location?

A: Towers with wireless transmission. This may include existing towers, street poles, high buildings, barns, silos, water towers, etc.

Who will decide where these will be located?

A: This has not been determined yet. Expects an authority from WW initiative. Perhaps a Board or not for profit, to work with the private sector partners to decide optimum location for providing service. It is envisioned that partners will coordinate location with farmers where there are null areas. Teams may facilitate locations through cooperative effort. Discussion resulted in understanding that these decisions will be made clearer as process continues. It is expected that particular attention will be paid to zoning allowances.

How will internet connections occur, feed antennas?

A: Point to point technology. Expects antenna to be connected to a backhaul where there is no fiber/comcast. Discussion included a concern in the rural areas that will require wire that is not currently available.

What is status of SWWCOG application for pilot?

A: Ray is preparing application and has concern that such a large chunk of county may discourage partners to pilot and further suggested that SWWCOG may want to consider a smaller region approach. Ray raised concern of newspaper report that Sharon voted against WW.

Gary Blades and Tom Lavender confirmed that this was not the case. Discussion continued regarding the application and it was decided that an application including the entire SWWCOG area is preferred by the members. Ray suggested that member areas pass resolution of support individually to attach to the pilot application. Freedom Township has already passed the resolution. Other areas who will meet before the application deadline are encouraged to present the resolution to their Boards for support and attachment to the application. Ray will finalize the application and forward to members who would like to review before submission.

What are intentions in relation to Manchester Village?

A: The general pilot application will include the Village.

Contracted Disposal Services - Bridgewater Township, Cindy Carver: County Solid Waste profile provided in February mentioned amount of damage that garbage haulers do to local roads with multiple collections (ex: 1 truck = 1,000 car trips because of weight of truck). Solid Waste Consortium suggests consolidation of haulers. Bridgewater Township realizes numerous privately hired haulers. Superior Township has contracted with one hauler and received reduced rate for property owners in addition to reduced traffic. Cindy suggested that SWWCOG look at consolidating garbage haulers to possibly result in better pricing with more users. Following discussion it was agreed that SWWCOG members will discuss the topic with their Boards and that the topic can be addressed through SWWCOG.

Contracted Disposal Services continued - Jan Godek mentioned that Lodi has discussed this topic and decided not to pursue because they felt that the same number of trucks would deliver, the initiative would take away from free enterprise and that residents are pleased with the individual attention given by their hired haulers. Ron shared that Manchester Village annually negotiates rates with their contracted hauler and continues to receive a good service at reduced cost.

Traffic Committee - Jeff Wallace absent. No report since the Committee has not met.

Public Safety & Justice Needs Update - Ron Mann reported that the Supervisors, Village Manager and Village Mayor of SWWCOG membership met on August 9 to discuss the issue of public safety. The SWWCOG officials are disappointed with the Board of Commissioners decisions regarding public safety and collaboratively recognize the need to provide for public safety. Past Commissioner Joe Yekulis who has experience and valuable information regarding this topic met with the group to assist with brainstorming and direction to resolve the concerns of continued protection. The group has decided to move forward together with research toward some means of police protection and has assigned members to research for review of the option to contract, develop a regional department, and/or an authority. Ron continued to announce that the group has decided to pursue individual support of the member Boards to include financial resources in the event that dollars are needed to support inquiries for providing service, inquiries of resident preference for service, and future approvals.

Guest Steve Solowczuk complimented the Supervisors who united to present the BOC with an alternate proposal that was taken in to consideration at BOC meeting August 3. Discussion continued with regard to the proposal which gained the contracting entities only a very small advantage, basically buying contracting units one additional year to seek alternative police protection measures. Jan Godek reported that Lodi Township is also researching and reviewing options for police protection, and expects Lodi to only contract with the County thru 2006.

SWWCOG Web Site Update- Ray Berg: Site became live in June. Site includes meeting schedule, links to Township web sites, Construction Authority, proceedings (minutes, agendas), summary of roundtable discussion, Manchester Chicken Broil web page is included, section regarding regional issues of interest and options of appropriate links. Ray requests that members review the website and welcomes any recommendations. The membership thanked and applauded Ray Berg for his excellent work to produce and maintain the SWWCOG website.

Roundtable Discussion:

Manchester Schools-Ron Ellison: School begins in two weeks. Athletic fields and facilities are looking great thanks to the assistance of boosters and other groups. Additional improvements will include a new greenhouse and possibly a bus garage.

Roundtable Discussion continued:

Sharon Township-Tom Lavender: Thanked Freedom Township for sending notice of intention for growth management. Reported that the review and revision of their zoning ordinance continues to produce challenges. Trying to streamline government services with methods and procedures to serve people efficiently. Gary Blades added that the Board is researching funding and land swaps to resolve M52 and other road concerns. Drastic changes are expected in the next 4-5 years which is expected to resolve many fire/rescue calls.

Freedom Township-Bob Little absent, Jennifer Alexa reported: Finished Bethel Church/Steinback, New development is that the Township received application of Barrett Lake MDEQ application for expansion which would expand the lake from 58 to 183 acres at 140 feet deep, well below the water table, mining materials at one million tons per year for 35 years. Peter Collins of ASTI submitted a report of no significant environmental impacts. Township Board and Planning Commission members are concerned and will process the application carefully.

Bridgewater Township-Tania Kersey/Board - Announced Supervisor resignation-three potential candidates for the position will be considered by the Board; Busy monthly agendas, WWTP collection system installation concerns continue to be reviewed. Jim Fish/P.C. - Developments in the Hamlet area are contingent on sewer allocations; PC having difficulty with review of incomplete applications; Review of master plan report looked at '92 and '00 surveys, SWW data, compared to find interesting data specific to changes; Expects some sort of visual survey regarding open space to request preferences; Suggested to include in the survey a series of questions regarding how residents feel about consolidated services, including merger of communities; Bridgewater Estates proposed development slowed due to zoning designation of agricultural as opposed to residential and challenges of developer with providing water/sewer.

Manchester Township-Ron Mann- Report continued appeal with the Huron Valley Knights; Rumor of pending development with on-site wwtp; Village/Township PC's met to discuss cooperative issues. George Daubner/PC reported that joint meeting provided good discussion without decisions; PC relatively quiet.

Manchester Village-Pat Vaillencourt absent, Karl Racenis reported that developer has purchased 37/39 acre parcel south of the village with application for annexation to the Village. Village approved the application based on SWW plan, Village plan, and Township master plan, forwarded to Manchester Township for review or input/approval; PC is working on changes to the zoning ordinance relative to State conditional zoning law changes.

Other Business: Ron Mann reported that SEMCOG flew new aerals in color, very nice, which are being quality controlled and may be available by year end.

Jim Fish- Reported from research requested at June meeting that asked him to contact MTA for legal opinion regarding referendum petition to County regarding police protection issue. MTA not entirely helpful except to provide initiative pertaining to Township referendum. Directed that more information will be available in the next two issues of MTA News. Ron Mann added that there are 17 pages of useful information on police services in “Managing Modern Michigan Township” publication from MTA.

Ron Mann opened discussion for suggestion of future SWWCOG meeting topics that may include guest speakers and/or training as discussed among the group some time ago. It was discussed that any items encompassing joint activities would be advantageous to discuss at future meetings. Ron further requested that electronic contact information be provided to Pat for cost and time efficiency of SWWCOG distributions.

Brian Sharkey, who replaced Ken Reiter at the Road Commission introduced himself and inquired regarding the status and the groups opinion of the ROW plan. Discussion followed and it was suggested that Brian contact Jeff Wallace since Jeff worked closely with Ken Reiter on behalf of the SWWCOG group.

Motion to adjoun by Peter Deloof, second by Ron Mann, passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting: September 14, 2005 at Sharon Township Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by: Tania Kersey, Bridgewater Township