

# **SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**7:00 pm Wednesday, FEBRUARY 8, 2006**

**MANCHESTER Township Hall**

## **MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order** by Pat Vaillencourt at 7:05 PM

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Sign In**

Pat Vaillencourt, Karl Racenis, Ron Mann, Neel Sheth, Jim Fish, Gary Blades, Tom Lavender, Jesse O'Jack, Ray Berg, Ron Ellison, Pam Byrnes (52nd District Representative), Mark Roby (County Planning & Environment), Paul Siersmer (Carlisle-Wortman), Carleen Nelson-Nesvig (Manchester Enterprise)

**4. Introductions**

**5. Approval of Agenda as amended.**

Motion by Ellison, Supported by Mann, Approved by acclamation

**6. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2006**

Correction-Feb. meeting on Feb. 8 at Manchester Township, March meeting at School Administration Building on March 8.

Motion by Lavendar, Support by Mann, Approved by acclamation

**7. Washtenaw County Public Safety & Justice Needs Update**

Pat Vaillencourt reported that the Steering Committee is considering 4 options, with Option #4 is most appealing. Contracted cost would be just under \$117,000 per deputy, not including Supervision or overtime. The County would pay for overtime due to short staffing, the contracting jurisdiction would pay for court time, etc. There would be 12 deputies and a Sergeant paid from the County general fund; a major improvement, but not a full Countywide Road Patrol. The Sheriff would be responsible for these deputy assignment, but he has not made any commitments to date. The Steering Committee will continue to meet and work with the Sheriff's department to resolve this issue. According to Mann, this would return back to 1990's service level.

The Steering Committee still has a way to go, but it is time to take it back to Elected Officials Forums, which are scheduled. Maximum public participation at these meetings is most important and desirable

Thursday Feb. 9 at 7:00 PM in the County Library on Hogback Rd.

Thursday Feb. 16 at 3:30 PM at the County Road Commission on Zeeb Rd.

A question was raised about State Police coverage in light of this proposal. Pam Byrnes suggested representation by the State Police at the Feb. 9 meeting. Vaillencourt will e-mail Steering Committee members about this.

The County Commissioners voted to rescind their bond resolution for jail and court construction, with the intention of studying this issue for the next 6-9 months.

Ypsilanti, Salem and Augusta Townships filed a lawsuit against County, but no injunction was issued because the County agreed to continue services to these areas under the conditions and costs to the contracting jurisdictions. The suit is based on a memo estimating deputy contracting claiming it to be a “Master Contract” and asking that County be forced to provide a level of service based on past history and common law practices. Mann stated that lawsuit will be worthwhile if court rules on what is required from County, but is not optimistic that the courts will be so decisive. Current laws are vague and very open to interpretation on this subject.

#### **8. February CEO “Brown Bag” meeting of SWWCOG Chief Elected Officers**

Steve Puuri (Road Commission) attended and stated there is a significant safety issue with temporary signs placed on County road Right-Of-Ways. He asked the Townships for help through ordinances controlling these. Dexter and Lyndon Twp. have successfully done this. According to Jesse O’Jack, Jan Godek in Lodi Township is working on such an Ordinance, which could be model for the SWWCOG. She will also be meeting with Realtors and Home Builders Association.

Jim Fish asked if there is any penalty for such signs. Vaillencourt stated that the Road Commission has no power to issue citations.

Gary Blades said that the Road Commission currently can issue permits for signs in the ROW’s not authorized by Townships.

Vaillencourt said that this is an opportunity for SWWCOG to work with the Road Commission in creating win-win situation.

#### **9. SWWCOG – Committee updates**

- a.** Fire cost recovery (Lavendar, Mann, Little, Sheth)  
Per Mann, this committee has not met because he is still gathering information, primarily from websites. It appears that incremental costs rather than fixed costs appear indicated. Howell and Lyndon Township have legal cases affecting these issues, with the Lyndon case likely to be appealed.
- b.** Mineral extraction ordinances (Township appointees)  
Nothing to date.
- c.** Joint police services (Blades, Mann, Little, Sheth, Wallace, Vaillencourt)  
No meeting since last month pending further resolution from the County.
- d.** Regional planning (Vaillencourt, Mann, Blades, Wallace)  
No meeting to date.

Mann said that the MTA Conference had a panel session on joint planning and Grant funded projects. There was an interesting handout about urbanization and the cause of urban sprawl. The outline will be on the MTA website.

## **10. Wireless Project Report – Ray Berg**

A major change was the extension of the bid deadline for the pilot project because of the new firms and consolidation happening in the industry. The Business Committee has met to set up criteria for evaluating the proposals. Ray continues to emphasize the rural needs for the program. Substantial work will then be necessary to sort out these proposals. Target dates now are:

RFP's returned March 7.

Test partner selected in April.

Pilot programs May-July.

Pilot evaluation and selection of provider in Summer 2006.

3rd Quarter 2006 roll-out.

Master Participation Agreement now approved by 3 other government units. The Attorneys for the County and the SWWCOG units met and agreed on a new document for review.

Governance of system is still an issue, with Washtenaw County holding the contract with the provider, but not running or owning the system. The new State law says there can not be a Board set up for regulation.

## **11. SWWCOG Web Site Update – Ray Berg**

Ray continues to update website-Wireless Washtenaw / new options including usage statistics. One Washtenaw /

### **11a. County Issues-Mann**

One Washtenaw at their quarterly meetings asked for input on what the County website can do for local jurisdictions. They have training courses available to local government units covering topics such as Customer Service. Audit Success for Local Government, and a Professional Development catalog many 1/2 or 1 day classes.

Overflight data from 2005 for the GIS will not be available until May or June. Aerial views will be similar resolution to the 2002 ones, but now in color.

County Meeting on wastewater systems; date TBD.

Local units received maps of roads for update and input.

Google Earth-Mann demonstration.

Mark Roby(County Planning)-interested in regional planning; will be coming to SWWCOG meetings.

## **12. Roundtable Discussion –**

Manchester Schools: Ellison- concerned about Curriculum and frustrated that State seems to want to run schools.

Sharon Township: Lavendar- busy on M-52 projects; public hearing for Zoning Ordinance Feb.15; new roof on part of Twp Hall.

Freedom Township: Berg- Bob Little's sister died of brain cancer last week and he is in Florida. Township meeting next week. The big issue is that the Barrett gravel pit application was withdrawn.

Bridgewater Township: Sheth- Wilbur Rd. bridge for sale; meeting with Road Commission on new bridge appearance; Drain Commissioner appointed Board to approve 2.4 mile drain tile replacement at almost \$1M cost.

Ad-hoc committee on agricultural land preservation report by Ellison- several meetings held; formula for PDR scoring-bonus points awarded if Planning Commission has taken classes, joint training among Townships, windmill article-concern about no ordinance covering this.

O'Jack- Lodi has had that problem and is working on that. Proposed State legislation to take this out of local Zoning control. Mann-opportunity to work on common ordinance. Fish-windmill was in Pittsfield Township for 8-10 years, but now gone.

Fish- picked up plan category from SWWCOG plan for Bridgewater Master Plan.

Farmer's weed problems due to large parcels of new homes.

Manchester Township: Mann- Road Commission meetings, should they meet with SWWCOG?

No recent meetings; no recent Land Division applications, 7 attended MTA Convention.

Manchester Twp. has statement about training on Planning Commission application.

Manchester Village: Vaillencourt- park behind Village Hall considering footbridge across river to park area; State Historical listing imposes many expensive requirements on using Wilbur Road bridge for this application.

Village has application form for different Commissions and Committees with qualifications.

04-05 audit confirmed that Village is in good financial condition with conservative management. Gratefule for Wallace and Schaible.

Formed Citizens Development Council for DDA with 9 appointees.

Historical District still working on plan with grant from County; State forced district to not mix commercial and residential.

Planning Commission had public hearings on Eccles and Mitchell properties.

Playground Barn Raisers for Carr Park making progress in funding playground equipment-Barn and Tractor, applied for grant, will need volunteers for "barn raising".

Blades talked about setting up Parks Authority to share costs of recreational facilities, primarily in Village.

Gene DeRossett will be sworn in as USDA Rural Development Director for State of Michigan at 10 AM on Saturday, Feb.11.

Can Pam Byrnes help with Wilbur Road bridge historical requirements? (Blades)

Resolution: In light of it's ongoing regional planning efforts, the SWWCOG is in support of reuse of bridge if State Historical requirements can be waived, in lieu of demolition of bridge. Motion by Ellison, Support by Blades, Approved by Affirmation.

Mark-Washtenaw County MSU Extension will be offering Citizen Planner program

### **13. Other Business**

Pam Byrnes-State working on Core Curriculum. Manchester Schools commented on concern about students not intending to go to college. (Ron Ellison indicated that what is coming out now is significantly different and better than 6 weeks ago).

Budget is primary issue being worked on.

Hearings on water diversion and withdrawal issues, settlement on bottled water issues.

Not much happening in transportation.

Campaign year-out of session by June.

Worked hard on bill so that Wireless Washtenaw would be allowed. Michael Noff from Battle Creek was cooperative.

Mann-Qualified voter system being implemented; significant Spam problem happening.

Ellison-concerned about background checks; where does it stop; vendors, visitors, contractors, etc. (costs \$77 per check)

Byrnes working with Blades on straightening out M-52.

### **14. Adjourn at 9:02 PM**

**The next regular meeting will be March 8, 2006, Manchester Community Schools.**