

**SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Freedom Township Hall February 9, 2005**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chair Jim Fish
2. Representatives present: Jim Fish, Pat Vaillencourt, Robert Little, Karl Racenis, Ron Mann, Tania Kersey, Tom Lavender,
3. Others present: Austen Smith, Ray Berg, Jesse O'Jack, George Daubner, Reno Feldkamp, Duane Beuerle, David Davis, Steve Solowczuk, Mike Bossory, Steve Puuri, Fred Veigel, Tim Eder, Doug Parr, Lyle Weidmayer, Peter DeLoof, Sara Basset, Sybil Kolon, Ed Reed, Dick Irwin, Geof Oliver, Tom Wharam,
4. Introductions
5. Draft Agenda approved as printed
6. Minutes of January 12, 2005 meeting approved as printed.
7. Washtenaw County Road Commission – Annual Local Government Meeting and Briefing  
Steven Puuri, Managing Director reviewed: road commission mission, responsibilities, duties, organizational structure, employee history, financial facts, funding sources, budget trends, accomplishments, development/funding projects, and projects and initiatives.

**Questions/Comments** –

\*David Davis identified problems on Pleasant Lake Road and questioned why he had not received an acceptable response to his visits to the Road Commission. Steve Puuri agreed to look into issues but stated that there will be times that responses will not be what people want to hear.

\*Ron Mann questioned whether the funding match distribution would be about the same. Steve confirmed that will be the recommendation and doesn't expect any changes. Ron pointed that the money had stayed the same since 1997 and cost have gone up, so they actually have less to work with.

\*Peter DeLoof questioned the road commissions future involvement with gravel trucks/pits. Steve indicated they will be reprinted the new truck map. The legal length change will take affect 2006 and may have some affect on the haul route program but does not see much new coming.

\*Bob Little pointed out that it is our money that is paid in and we see minimal new construction or seal coating.

\*Jim Fish asked about tax structure on bio-diesel and ethanol vs. regular fuel. Steve stated that bio-diesel is the same and there was a Federal change on ethanol, which has been reviewed. The commission has a contract with the State for state trunkline, which is 5% of expenditures, and Steve feels it is cost effective.

\*Doug Parr asked about County money. Steve explained County Parks has had them pave shoulders.

Discussions on passing lanes (such as being used up North) customer service from the commission, 55mph speed limit, timing of getting permits.

8. Traffic Committee Report – Preliminary final ROW map is close to being completed. If the map is available, the committee will be the last Tuesday in Feb.
9. County Sponsored Recycle/Clean Up Day – Ron Mann has a volunteer that is working with the County, other township volunteers should contact County. The old middle school, the parking lot behind the Methodist Church (Klager), the Legion and old Ford garage are being considered as sites.

10. Jail and Services Millage – Discussion on issues previously discussed. Jim Fish pointed out that it has been stated that people are not using the existing treatment programs because if they choose jail they get out early. Why are they asking for more treatment programs when the ones we have aren't being used? Pat commented that the flyer received at homes today was misleading and did not clearly state what the money will be used for.

11. Roundtable Discussion:

**Manchester Public Schools** – No one present, there is a special meeting tonight.

**Sharon Twp.** - Tom Lavender stated that the next board meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in March, is joint with planning commission. Still working on zoning ordinance. Hope to have it done early next quarter. They had a discussions on new voting regulations, redoing the township hall and creating a position to keep hall open to the public. Gary Blades gave a talk about Pleasant Lake and M52 adding a left hand turning lane rather than moving the Church.

**Freedom Twp.** - Bob Little – they had a discussion on new voting regulations, they are concerned that if they don't do all that is required the county will take over the elections. They will have a meeting tomorrow morning on gravel requests.

**Bridgewater Twp.** – Tania Kersey - Proposed sewer use ordinance will be put on the table next week. Hamlet project for sewer moving along nicely, 75% complete. Elections will be very interesting. Budget is frustrating. Jim Fish – the planning commission looking at annual work program to see what can be done within the budget.

**Manchester Twp.** - Ron Mann distributed fire department incident comparison graph by township. Total runs decreasing, believed due to decline in employment in the Village. Ron also distributed HVA run reports. Twp has an application for site condos at the old Doan gravel pit, 27 lots, with their own well and septic systems, to be called the Waterfront Village. Mich. Twp educational conference was very good, with almost 2000 delegates attending.

**Village** – Pat Vaillencourt – DDA boundaries appear to be established, hope to have ordinance language ready for the next meeting. The Historic District Committee is moving forward with establishing a boundary recommendation. Uniloy building auction extended to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Hired a new WWTP supervisor, and are very fortunate to have very qualified person. At Monday's meeting we accepted our audit, in spite of loss of industry the Village remains in excellent financial condition.

**Other business** – Ron Mann reported that there has been an invitation to the Saline Sustainability Circle. Ron will be speaking, they want to set up something like what we have. Steve Solowczuk said our group is mentioned very often at the County and they may be interested in doing a pilot program on wireless. Ray Berg reported on development of SWWCOG web page, using the county expertise and server, he is willing to lead the effort. Offer accepted by SWWCOG. The county offers monthly content management training, 3 hour course. Ray also mentioned "Wireless Washtenaw" and the initiative to have county wide access by end of 2007. They want two pilot programs, one rural and one urban, in 2006. Ray recommended the SWWCOG area be the pilot program hub. We would need to write a proposal as to why we should be considered. Steve Solowczuk said there is good support by the Board of Commissioners for this area. Pat motioned we support Ray Berg pursuing this opportunity, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. NOTE: We should remind everyone of special meeting with Fred Lucas in March.

Next Meeting March 9, 2005, Manchester Community Schools  
Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm

