SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

7:30 pm Wednesday
May 11, 2011
Freedom Township Hall

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Chairman Mann at 7:35 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Sign In –** Ron Mann, Gary Baetens, George Daubner, Doug Fuller, Jolea Mulll, David Veselenak, Dale Weidmayer, Kathy Spiegel, Ron Ellison, Jan Godek, Bill Lewis, Pat Vailliencourt

4. **Public Comment -** none

5. **Approval of Agenda** – moved by Mull to approve as presented, seconded by Lewis, approved by acclamation.

6. **Approval of Minutes –** April Regular meeting; moved by Weidmayer to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Ellison, approved by acclamation.

7. **Reports –**
    a. **WATS** - Ron Mann – Mann provided a brief overview for SWWCOG's newest member, Kathy Spiegel; reviewed the WATS 2009 Transportation Profile and data.
    b. **Polices Services** -- Pat Vailliencourt
    c. **WCRC** -- Doug Fuller – discussed the pre-construction status on Lima Township bridges; AARA funding was helpful to finish up projects; bridges also an issue in Saline Township as three of their five bridges are on the "wish list" for funding through the State Bridge Program.
    d. **C.E.O.s –** no report.
    e. **Other –** Ron Mann reported on the 2010 Census Data & Tax Rates spreadsheet; the data gives our municipalities a clear perspective on how we fit into with the rest of the county. Mann also reported that the county is in the process of redistributing for its county commissioners; possibly going to have 12 commissioners with four representing Ann Arbor. There are other county and city disparities as Ann Arbor makes up 1/3 of the entire county population. Mann will send out an electronic copy of the 2010 Census Data & Tax Rates spreadsheet.

8. **Roundtable Discussion –**
    Bridgewater Township, Mull – township hosted its "Final Clean-Up Day" for now until it realizes/affirms the residents' need for it again in the future; township board has worked through two issues with Stansley Mineral Resources gravel pit that resulted in the township agreeing to receive $19,500 to allow an one-time-only arrangement with the gravel pit to allow them to process concrete that it brought into its operation against township regulations, and after the township board affirmed our current clerk's accounting of all the gravel pit's accounts, the gravel pit agreed to pay its outstanding invoices totaling about $20,000 after the township told the gravel pit that the township would shut down their operations if it failed to pay the invoices; the Tour of Washtenaw Bicycle Race came through the township successfully after much administrative buffoonery. Planning commission approved St. Aiden's church special land use after much deliberation over the driveway-safety issue with the county road commission, and some trees will need to be removed; planning commission turned down Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's request for rezoning from agricultural to conservation preservation for the county's intended "Riverbend

Preserve."

Sharon Township, __(name)**__**, Fire-Run Millage to fund fire runs for .5 mils for two years passed; the earlier billing system failed; trying to improve the system and communication with residents. Planning Commission is finishing up another wind generator; planning commission and board approved the Master Plan; Grass Lake Sanctuary a possible retreat center.

Manchester Township – Mann, Board extended the medical-marijuana moratorium, and the planning commission is working on the ordinance; board accepted a bid for sealcoat on driveways; board looking into MTA workers compensation insurance carrier; the proposed wind farm "died" and is not happening; discussed a possible special-assessment district to handle lake weeds; there is a new county mapping program online; Mann shared a letter from SEMCOG where the DNR is seeking a federal grant and needs $5.5 million to purchase 2000 acres of continuous land in Manchester and Norvell Townships. Planning commission wind-energy-conversion amendment, setback revisions ordinance, and family accessory apartments issue.

Off-agenda item - Fuller left the building to take a call and returned to inform the group that the County Board of Commissioners was in session and had just decided to have a nine-member Board and not 12; group briefly discussed some implications of the decision.

Manchester Village – Vailliencourt, shared details on how M-52 is progressing; applied for critical-bridge funding on Main Street bridge; close to tearing down the bus barn as the inspections are complete. Planning commission is working with the sign ordinance, and it will stay as it is; looking at a blight ordinance and can put blight enforcement on tax bills; close to having a medical marijuana ordinance finalized; summer activities coming up soon; the walk/bike trail received $150,000 grant for three years, and its long-term maintenance is a big concern; it is now budget time.

Manchester Schools – Ellison, enrollment numbers may be down because the DuRussell's migrant plan has changed; district is in the market for a new superintendant, and the board is going to interview search firms; negotiations with support staff and teachers' contracts.

Freedom Township – Weidmayer, Board resolution to bring new procedure to the planning commission; Master Plan on final approval of the township board; representative from Congressman Tim Walberg's office working with farm worker; Waters Road will be the project this year. Planning commission had annual gravel-pit inspections; Levy is not going to process anything this year; Steinback pit filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy; reclamation bond 250K per OHM engineers.

9. Program – Continued Discussion of -

County Wide Transportation- Mann, County Transit Master Plan – Question on whether we passed a resolution to join; there is a lot of information out there about this topic; so far has not heard of anyone who is interested in being the representative for our area; there is a meeting tomorrow if we are interested in knowing more information or joining; there is also a drop-out date; current research shows it would cost $465 million over 30 years ($15 million per year) with an estimated 4.79 mils county wide. Shared more data on the per person amount that is between $194-$308.

Off-agenda item: Recycling – Board discussed the current $26 per household assessment; we need to see the actual budget numbers that the WWRA used to calculate their bottom line; June is the deadline to let WWRA know our status; WWRA has always had to have special

assessments to sustain itself; the WWRA is projecting a 20% increase in recycling; unclear what they are basing these numbers on; cost needs to be reasonable; need to know the numbers/costs if there is *not* a 20% increase in recycling; WWRA removed the "Full Faith and Credit" line from the contract.

Police Services- Vailliencourt, planning to meet with the finance group; trying to justify $176,000 for the cost of a police-service unit; presentation to the County Board of Commissioners for the price; the approach is that there is a benefit of the contracted deputies to the entire county; Ypsilanti Township may contract with Ypsilanti City; currently, they have close to half of all the county's deputies.

Jeff Wallace has looked at the numbers, and they are dangerously close to what it would cost for us to have some form of our own local police; the state police is closing in Ypslianti, so now the state police comes in from Brighton.

The Village pays over seven mils for police coverage.

For our own police-services: It would cost approximately $200 per year per *household* complete with both fire and police services (with an average of 2.43 persons per household). SEMCOG projects that the average police per *person* is $219.

The SWWCOG board agreed by acclamation to present the idea of a local public-safety collaboration to our boards to consider our options both with and without the county.

We all still want basic core services. We can look at providing both our police and fire through this group and possibly expand collaboration further than our current membership.

Manchester Township is going to do a millage. Public safety is at risk with what has happened with the state police. We need to inform our constituents of the details. Police presence is worth a lot.

This topic will be the only agenda item for our June meeting. We need to watch and see what Ypsilanti does. A municipality must notify the county within six months (= next month) of intention not to contract.

We will ask our county commissioner Alicia Ping to come to our June 8 meeting.

Adjourn moved by Ellison, seconded by Daubner, adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jolea Mull

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2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan. 12 – Manchester Vill. – *Assessing/Recycling*
Feb. 9 – Man. Schools Admin – ***Police Services***
Mar. 9 – Manchester Twp. – ***Police & Recycling***
April 13 – Bridgewater Twp. – ***County Wide Trans***.
May 11 - Freedom Twp. – Transportation & Police
June 8 – Sharon Twp. - _____

July - **NO MEETING**
Aug. 10 – Bridgewater Twp._____
Sept. 14 – Freedom Twp. - _____
Oct. 12 – Sharon Twp. - _____
Nov. 9 – Manchester Vill._____
Dec. 14, –Manchester Twp. _____