

Celebrating Fifty Years of Service - 1963-2013

Approved: August 20, 2014

**CMRPC Physical Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2014**

Present: Chair Tim Wheeler, Bob Hassinger, Otto Lies, Chris Baehrecke, Al Lanni Peter Krawczyk, and Kathleen Keohane (Quorum – Yes)
Absent: None
Staff: Chris Ryan, Janet Pierce, and Trish Settles
Guest: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Minutes: *MOTION was made by Mr. Baehrecke to approve the minutes of March 13, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Keohane, the motion carried unanimously.*

Project Updates

Chris Ryan provided an update of current Community Development and Planning Department (CDAP) projects. He indicated that Eric Smith has made good progress on the freight rail economic development pilot project. He has performed substantial literature review, met with Auburn, and Oxford, held business round tables. The Worcester Chamber and the WBDC are interested in expanding the pilot to the broader region.

The DataCommon project is moving forward, following a good workshop/kickoff in May. This is an exciting project that brings together experience from MAPD and where we will be working with MRPC and several local foundations to launch. We are aggressively looking for Phase 2 funding which will include additional work to establish a Sustainable Indicators project in several areas, health, transportation, planning, housing, etc.

Trish elaborated on the DLTA project progress as summarized in the 2nd Quarterly report to the State for the Regional Agricultural efforts, the Priority Development Area Feasibility Analyses, the Regional Housing efforts, and the Lost Village Scenic Byway Kiosk construction. Chris provided the committee with information on the Energy services, and Janet provided and update on Regional Services, referencing the spreadsheet she handed out. Janet also shared a summary of the Business Plan she developed

Budget Update

Referencing a spreadsheet prepared by Janet, the committee has \$60,309 remaining in DLTA funds.

DLTA requests

Central Massachusetts Buy Local Planning Initiative. Trish presented the request that had several letters of commitment and support, including a letter from Rep. Anne Gobi, seeking \$20,000 to support CMRPC's involvement in the launch of a Buy Local effort. Funding is also proposed in the Environmental Bond Bill. Great energy was shown in the kickoff meeting on May 28th. ***Al Lanni made a motion to approve the request for upto \$20,000. Bob Hassinger seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The motion passed.***

Additional Priority Development Areas Feasibility Analyses

Trish indicated that we have had further requests from 3 towns and indications from other towns that they might want assistance. Support/request letters included Grafton, Southbridge, and Northbridge. The request was to support 4 towns, the three just indicated and one other possible. ***Bob Hassinger made a motion to approve the request for upto \$8,800. Otto Lies seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The motion passed.***

Central Massachusetts Comprehensive Regional Prioritization Plan

Chris presented the rationale for the request to provide DLTA resources to support CMRPC's development of a Regional Land Use plan that builds off of the four (4) completed Prioritization Processes. Support letters from the State Offices of Housing and Economic Affairs (EOHED) and Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) were included. ***Chris Baehrecke made a motion to approve the request for upto \$8,200. Al Lanni seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The motion passed.***

Janet updated the committee on the status of the Procurement project, the School Regionalization projects, and other non-DLTA projects. She indicated that there may be a need for additional regional services DLTA resources.

Janet presented the anticipated updated budget with the amounts allocated below and other minor adjustments to admin. After all allocations and adjustments, DLTA remaining funds are \$21,551.95. ***Bob Hassinger made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Kathleen Keohane seconded and all voted in favor. The motion passed.***

New Business

Trish requested that the committee authorize Tim Wheeler, as the chair of the committee, to sign a letter that would verify the use of \$8,500 of allocated DLTA funds to be used as the 25% match of a \$33,000 request to the USDA Local Food Promotion Program. ***Bob Hassinger made a motion to authorize Tim's signature, Kathleen Keohane seconded and all voted in favor. The motion passed.***

Announcements/Other Upcoming Meetings

Trish announced that the State Prioritization Plan meeting originally planned for June 18th will be rescheduled for a date in July.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7pm.

Adjournment: A MOTION was made by Mr. Lanni, seconded by Ms. Keohane, and all present voted in favor to adjourn at 9:08p.m.

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