

Intergovernmental Communication and Cooperation Committee Meeting Notes December 5, 2008

9:00am lower level of the Benzie County Government Center
Probation Officers Conference Room

Attendees:

Pat Delonnay-Benzonia Township Trustee
Steve Fouch- Benzie County MSU Extension Director
Sharron May- Resident, Crystal Lake Twp
Kathy Ralston -Benzie County Planning Commission Chair
Mark Roper- Benzie County Commission Chair
Katherine Ross- Benzie Central School Board President, Benzie County
Planning Commission
Jim Sheets: Benzonia Township Supervisor

Introductions/Welcome

November meeting notes approved with no changes
Agenda approved with no changes

The reading of the ICC Mission statement will be added to future agendas as a start to future meetings.

ICC Publicity Report - A press release on the ICC and upcoming Summit will be submitted on Friday, December 12 to the Record Eagle and Record Patriot. Proofreaders need to submit edits by Wednesday, December 10th. Other possible venues for Press Releases could include the GT Insider and the Northern Express. There was discussion on the use of Public service announcements and community calendars as the date of the Summit nears to encourage citizen participation. Sharron will confirm with Dave that Dani has been compensated for the first Press Release and then contact Dani about an estimate on providing an article prior to and after conference.

Status of Government Committee focus group - no report

ICC future role in updating the Intergovernmental Cooperation White paper-

This is one of the background reports that is scheduled to be updated as part of the update of the County Master Plan. Previous discussions of the ICC included the possibility of formalizing the committee with representation from various boards, committees and commissions throughout the county. Kathy Ralston suggested that updating the IC White Paper could possibly follow the formalization of the ICC some time shortly after the February 2009 Summit.

There was a discussion about how to accomplish greater communication as this is our primary objective. Jim Sheets suggested that we may ask Joe Dechow, Director of Communications for Munson Hospital to come speak to the group.

Summit Report -The cost of publicity, food and speakers should be finalized by December 12th. Kathy talked to Bonnie Zoia about speaking at the summit and also providing some guidance to the group in general. She has a background in communications and has led the effort to form a nonprofit to assist in grant writing for her home county, Alcona. Anne Damm is trying to secure a speaker on broadband technology. She's communicating with people who are knowledgeable in this area from both Manistee County and Merit Inc. Merit assists non-profits in setting up broadband communication infrastructure. Jim Sheets discussed a variety of renewable energy projects going on in McBain, Michigan in Missaukee County. Projects include a Co-generation plant and two large wind turbines producing electricity for 1600 homesteads. The community is moving ahead with plans for an ethanol plant using biofuel technology. It was noted that these projects are being funded largely through private capital. It was also mentioned that Misaukee County has no zoning. Mark Roper remarked that we need to make sure our zoning is not too restrictive so as not to discourage developers and entrepreneurs who may want to do business here, particularly in the area of renewable energy. Sharron is working on securing speakers on Agriculture. Patty Cantrell from the Michigan Land Use Institute Taste the Local Difference program is confirmed. Steve Fouch will ask someone from the Michigan Vintner's Association to speak. The group co-drafted an agenda for the summit. It was decided that each speaker will allow 10 minutes for Q & A as part of their presentation.

Rough draft for summit agenda:

- 8:30 Registration and continental breakfast
- 9:00 Welcome/Update on ICC/Introductions- Kathy Ralston
- 9:15 Communication: Bonnie Z.
- 9:45 Broadband Speaker-Anne Damm will confirm
- 10:20 Joint Q&A
- 10:30 Break
- 10:40 Alternative Energy and Economic Development-Jim Sheets will confirm
- 11:50 Joint Q & A
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Agriculture: Patty Cantrell
- 1:35 Michigan Vintner's Association-Steve Fouch will confirm
- 2:10 Joint Q&A session
- 2:20 Break
- 2:30 Task Force Facilitator for each table: Brainstorm mission? goals?
Affordable Housing, Communication, Broadband, Education, Grantwriting,
Renewable Energy/ Economic Dev; Agriculture;

3:30 Report from each group
4:30 Adjourn

Sharron will contact Tom Karas about attending the Summit. He is with Michigan Energy Alternative Solutions.

ICC Presentations-There was a discussion about beginning the process of notifying at an upcoming MTA meeting that we will be asking for appointments to the ICC from each township.

New Business

Jan. Meeting- Friday, Jan. 9th

Guests- no report

Comments/Feedback - no report

Adjourn

Proposed January Agenda

Welcome/ Introductions

ICC Mission

Approve Minutes

Approve Agenda

Mission/Objectives/Implementation

Govt. Focus Group- no report

Publicity Report

Publicity person; budget

Marketing calender/venues

Summit Report

Approve proposed Summit Agenda (handout)

Approve proposed Summit Budget (handout)

Assignment sign up sheet (pass around)