

River Area Council of Governments
April 16, 2019

Members present: J. Der, W. McIlroy, P. Smith, T. Stewart, S. Storms, and J. Zando

Absent: S. Burto, M. Bigness, F. Fazio, B. Ferguson, R. Larabee, A. Peck, R. Schell, and R. Vary

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 6:00pm at the T/Wilna Municipal Building, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by J. Der to approve the minutes of January 15, 2019, as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Presentation

Thomas Pridell from InfoGroup presented a webinar demonstrating the services offered by the firm in regards to business data and utilizing the data to attract businesses. Mr. Pridell described the firm as a data compiler. At the conclusion of the webinar P. Smith questioned the cost to access the information. Mr. Pridell responded that the cost to access the business information is \$2,800/annually. Mr. Pridell reported that the North County Library System is interested in the commercial program and offered to make the business information available if RACOG funded the first year for the library system. J. Zando and P. Smith both remarked that the information service has no value to the mission of RACOG.

Reports

M. Dietrich submitted the Circuit Rider report and updated the Council on a number of ongoing projects including:

- Resource Management Plan – anticipating a preliminary presentation in May
- Fort Drum Community Involvement – welcoming opportunities to volunteer with local community projects
- GIS Portal – working with Brian Phelps to customize the site. The resource management plan will be incorporated into the site.
- NY Alerts – will schedule a training refresher
- CAH Walkable Community dinner – a dinner hosted by the hospital where Mark Fenton will discuss walkable communities
- Public works – a presentation tentatively scheduled for May 30 by NY Rural Water Association to present the Diamond Maps program
- Black River Kayak event – Interest expressed by Lewis and Jefferson County COC to do a kayak challenge event in a future year

- Mileage – M. Dietrich asked for clarification regarding reimbursement of mileage. Chairman McIlroy stated that mileage reimbursement covered by RACOG was intended for activities directly related to the RACOG member communities. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the reimbursement of mileage previously submitted for meetings outside the authorized activities. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Fort Drum Internship – M. Dietrich recommended submitting an Army Career Skills program request for an intern. If accepted and assigned, there is no cost to RACOG for the interns work. The intern could be utilized to complete the resource management plan; do community mapping; and assist with the LED project. Motion by J. Zando, seconded by P. Smith to submit the program request and authorize Mickey Dietrich to sign the request as the point of contact. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Fort Drum Career Fair – authorized, by consensus, M. Dietrich to attend the career event.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by J. Zando to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Christina Vargulick
Christina Vargulick
RACOG Secretary