

River Area Council of Governments
October 22, 2019

Members present: J. Der, W. McIlroy, R. Schell, R. Vary, S. Storms, M. Bigness, P. Smith, J. Zando, F. Fazio, R. Grunert

Absent: B. Ferguson, T. Stewart, S. Burto, R. Larabee, A. Peck, K. Clark

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

Motion by R. Schell, seconded by M. Bigness to approve the minutes of May 21, 2019, as presented. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried. J. Der and F. Fazio had prior meeting so missed the approval of minutes.

Chairman McIlroy asked to do introductions, since there were some new people attending the meeting. R. Grunert was in attendance as a representative for Castorland, a new member community. Also in attendance were the two Fort Drum interns, J. Park and E. Labitoria.

Reports

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

- An update on the LED lighting project and status for each participating RACOG municipality was given. NYPA would like to coordinate meetings with municipalities that are looking to go with additional smart city technology above just asset management controls.
- Interns – Introduction of E. Labitoria as the new Fort Drum intern. Potential for another intern starting in December.
- Tug Hill Resident and Landowner Survey Results – The survey results are completed for RACOG.
- Walkable Communities – Villages of Carthage and Deferiet have adopted a complete streets policy. Related to Jefferson Lewis BOCES helping out on community projects, it was mentioned that the visual arts program at the Howard G. Sacketts center, would be interested in working on community projects throughout the year related to posters, flyers, and other relevant projects.
- Project Inventory (Vision Plan) – E. Labitoria could work with member RACOG municipalities to identify existing and future projects for each. Comprehensive plans and walkable community studies will be utilized, as well as, having E. Labitoria meet with municipalities individually. Council members agreed to move forward with the vision plan.

- Industry Summit – An idea of having an industry summit, like what Southern Tier 8 did last fall in their area. Council members agreed it was worth M. Dietrich pursuing this with partners from Jefferson and Lewis Counties.
- Resource Management Plan – Draft report is complete and J. Park will be presenting the report during the meeting. This plan combined with the vision plan will help with future projects and potential funding.

Presentation

- Resource Management Plan – J. Park, Fort Drum Intern, presented the draft RACOG resource management plan to the council. M. Dietrich gave a quick overview of what is in the plan. Once the plan is finalized and adopted by the council, it will be put up on the website. The council thanked J. Park and mentioned what a great job he did.

New Business

- Update the IMA to include Castorland and Copenhagen. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by B. Vary to update the IMA to include both the villages of Castorland and Copenhagen. Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Update the RACOG bylaws to reflect that a quorum will be a minimum of five (5) member villages and towns being present and executive meeting minutes will be posted to the River Area Council of Governments' website. Motion by J. Zando, seconded by S. Storms to update the RACOG bylaws. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by M. Bigness to adjourn. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

Mickey Dietrich
RACOG Municipal Management Consultant