

**Hastings Charter Township
Barry County
Rutland Charter Township
Carlton Township
City of Hastings
Joint Planning Alliance**

**Draft Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2011**

Members Present: Miner, Medendorp, Carpenter, Jasperse, Haywood, Mansfield, Warren, Phillips, Brown, McManus, Carr.

Members Absent: Redman, Wiswell.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Geiger, Byrnes.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Carr.

Carr led the JPA members and the public in attendance in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Warren, second by Medendorp to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2011 meeting of the Joint Planning Alliance after revision to change the reference to the time for the start of the meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and to receive and place on file the agendas for the July 20, 2011 and August 9, 2011 meetings of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting of the USEPA Brownfield Environmental Site Assessment Grant Subcommittee, and the minutes of the August 1, 2011 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

Motion by McManus, second by Brown to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as submitted.

Motion carried.

Carr asked for comments from the public. No comments from the public were received.

Carr asked the representatives from the various jurisdictions to report on any projects or activities in their respective areas.

McManus stated that there were no activities to report in the areas served by Barry County.

Mansfield stated that the City had received one request for a special land use permit to permit the open-air sale of motor vehicles on South Hanover Street. Jasperse stated that the City continued to work on amendments to the City's zoning ordinances for the downtown areas as recommended in the City Comprehensive Community Plan (Master Plan).

Haywood and Warren stated that there were no activities to report in Rutland Township.

Byrnes reported that a new manufacturing company had begun operations in Middleville, and that the company had created 54 new jobs.

Carr stated that Rutland Township had taken no action yet related to the Joint Land Use Plan or Joint Zoning Overlay, since the Urban Services Agreement had not yet been completed and approved. Carr stated that he and Mansfield would be speaking to Gerry Fisher the following morning as requested by Fisher to provide input to all the completion of the urban services agreements. Carr explained that Fisher had questioned which parties would be involved in the development of the initial Special Assessment District envisioned in the urban services agreement, and that he and Mansfield would be discussing this with Fisher the following day.

Carr stated that there was nothing new to report regarding funding for the efforts of the JPA, but that he would continue to seek funding for this work. Carr reminded those present that Jim Haggerty of Prein & Newhof had spoken on this issue at the previous JPA meeting.

Carr asked Mansfield to comment on the status of the Urban Services Agreement. Mansfield stated that Carr had provided a partial status report earlier in tonight's meeting. Mansfield stated that Fisher had begun work on the final agreements envisioned in his (Fisher's) report under the assumption that the question regarding the roles of the parties in the special assessment districts could be resolved. Mansfield stated that he and Carr would be taking the responses to Fisher's legal concerns to the City Council and Rutland Township Board for their review and approval in the very near future, and that Fisher would complete the agreements following such approval.

Mansfield stated that the draft urban services agreements would then be submitted to the JPA for review and approval before being sent on to the County, City and Townships for their review.

Carr led discussion regarding the list of work tasks to be accomplished by the JPA in 2011. No revisions to the list of work tasks were requested or approved.

Carr stated that the presentation by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council at the last JPA meeting was not well suited for the audience present. Carr stated that in the future he would ensure that presenters at the JPA meetings were more full informed regarding the needs and level of knowledge of the JPA.

Mansfield stated that he expected that the GVMC would again be present at the September meeting of the JPA to update the JPA regarding their findings related to service sharing efforts. Mansfield stated however that he had not yet heard any response from the GVMC following last month's meeting.

Carr asked for comments from the public. No public comments were forwarded.

Carr asked for additional comments from the members of the JPA.

Byrnes reported that the Barry County Economic Development Alliance had been working for some time on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's realignment of its service districts. Byrnes distributed a map showing the two proposed West Michigan Region districts. Byrnes reported that the BCEDA had supported Barry County aligning with other counties to the north, instead of pursuing alignment to the south. Byrnes and McManus stated that many of our regional affiliations were to the north. Byrnes also reported that the County was reviewing its regional planning district, and would likely ask to be affiliated with the West Michigan Regional Planning Association (again to the north). Byrnes encouraged those present to contact her with any questions.

Mansfield asked if any jurisdictions participating on the JPA other than the City were considering medical marijuana regulations. None reported that they were.

Carr asked for additional comments from the members of the JPA. No additional comments from the members of the JPA were forwarded.

Motion by Brown, second by Warren to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield
Secretary