

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2011**

Members Present: Miner, Medendorp, Carpenter, Warren, Haywood, Jasperse, Mansfield, Redman, Brown.

Members Absent: Wiswell, Lenz, McManus, Carr

Ex-Officio Members Present: Geiger, Byrnes.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Bob May, Craig Stolsonburg, Rick Moore.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Acting Chairman Brown.

Brown led the JPA members in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Redman, second by Warren to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2011 meeting of the Joint Planning Alliance as submitted, and to receive and place on file the agenda for the March 8, 2011 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the Notice of Zoning Public Hearing scheduled for the March 8, 2011 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting of the Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried.

Brown asked for comments from the Public. Commissioner Stolsonburg stated that the Barry County Board of Commissioners would be holding a meeting on April 12, 2011 to discuss the County's budget for the coming year, including mandated versus non-mandated services and the results of the MSU Extension financial study performed for the County.

Brown asked those present to report on activities in their respective jurisdictions.

Warren stated that the Rutland Township Planning Commission had forwarded a number of zoning text amendments to the Township Board of Trustees for their consideration.

Brown stated that there was nothing new to report regarding agenda item (8)b.

Brown stated that Hastings Township had recently adopted the resolution of support for the concept urban services agreement as prepared by the JPA working group with the assistance of Gerald Fisher. Brown stated that all of the units of government participating on the JPA had now approved the resolutions of support for the urban services agreement concept.

Brown stated that it was his understanding that Rutland Township intended to hold an open house on March 24, 2011 to solicit comment from the public regarding the concept urban services agreement developed by Fisher and the JPA. Mansfield stated that the City and Rutland Township would likely begin working on the agreements envisioned in the concept urban services agreement prepared by Fisher following Rutland Township's open house. Mansfield stated that Fisher would likely be retained to assist the Township and the City in the development of the necessary agreements.

Warren stated that all of the members of the JPA were welcome to attend the Rutland Township open house on March 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rutland Township Hall. Warren stated that invitations to the open house had been mailed to all of the owners of property located within the Preliminary Initial Urban Services Area.

Brown stated that the JPA Education Committee had nothing to report.

Redman stated that the website was up and fully operational, but that the content was not current. Stolsonburg reported that Aaron Staines, the County employee who maintains the website, had recently been ill and unable to complete his work.

Mansfield presented a brief report on the status of the USEPA Brownfield Site Assessment Grant. Mansfield stated that work on the Dreisbach site had now been completed. Mansfield stated that the information contained in the financial report presented last month was still applicable (no new projects had been authorized).

Brown asked for comments regarding the list of work tasks identified by the JPA for completion in 2011. Byrnes reported that the letters referenced in work tasks 3)b and 3)c had been sent out some time back, and that these work tasks could now be removed from the list.

Brown asked if any of the JPA members had ideas regarding additional funding for the work of the JPA. Geiger stated that Governor Snyder had presented a special message today outlining his goals and incentives for various local governmental activities. Geiger stated that the Governor's message indicated that communities would be rewarded for service sharing programs and efforts such as the JPA. Geiger recommended that the JPA monitor the Governor's efforts to see if funding would become available.

Brown asked if any representatives present had any additional information to report related to development within their jurisdiction. Mansfield stated that Commercial Bank had begun work on a temporary facility in the parking lot of the former Felpausch Food Store. Mansfield stated that Pennock Health Services had been granted administrative site plan approval for a lease space in the former Viatic facility. Jasperse stated that a new shoe store had opened in the downtown, and that an antique store would be opening soon.

Brown asked for comment from the public.

Mayor May stated that there would be a meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the KCC facility to discuss service sharing arrangements. May stated that representatives of all units of local government would be receiving invitations to the meeting soon.

Rick Moore stated that he applauded the units of government participating on the JPA for working together, and that it was nice to see progress being made on service sharing arrangements.

Brown asked for additional comment from the public. No public comments were forwarded.

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

Mansfield invited those present to attend an informational meeting on March 22, 2011 at Hastings City Hall related to a proposed trail project. Mansfield stated that the City intended to apply for grant funding for a project to continue to extend the Riverwalk Trail project.

Miner stated that the committee charged with reviewing redistricting of the County for the purposes of representation on the County Commission would soon be beginning work. Miner stated that this process would likely be completed quickly, so those interested in participating in the process needed to be attentive to the process and aggressive in advocating their interests.

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

Motion by Warren, second by Medendorp to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield  
Secretary