

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2010**

Members Present: Miner, McManus, Carpenter, Jasperse, Medendorp, Warren, Wiswell, Mansfield, Brown, Redman, Carr.

Members Absent: Lenz, Haywood.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Stolsonburg, Byrnes.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Carr.

Carr asked for additions or changes to the draft agenda for tonight's meeting. No requests for changes to the agenda were forwarded. Motion by Redman, second by McManus to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as presented.

Motion carried.

Carr asked for comment regarding the minutes of the April 19, 2010 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, the draft agenda for the April 21, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the draft minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the draft minutes of the May 3, 2010 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission. No comment was forwarded.

Motion by McManus, second by Redman to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2010 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee as presented, and to receive and place on file the draft agenda for the April 21, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the draft minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the draft minutes of the May 3, 2010 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

Carr asked for comment from the public. No public comment was forwarded.

Carr asked for updates from those present regarding projects within their respective jurisdictions.

McManus stated that there was no new activity to report in the areas under Barry County's purview.

Carr stated that Rutland Township was currently considering an ordinance to regulate commercial and residential wind turbines in the Township. Several members of the JPC offered to send copies of their jurisdiction's wind turbine ordinances for Rutland's reference.

Mansfield stated that the City Planning Commission was currently considering changes to the zoning classifications and requirements for areas within and adjacent to the City's downtown.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the request from the Barry County Board of Commissioners for clarification regarding a number of matters in the Joint Land Use Plan. McManus explained that the Barry County Board of Commissioners had recently acted on three issues. McManus stated that the County Board had adopted Addendum No. 1 to the JPC agreement changing the name of the JPC to the Joint Planning Alliance. McManus stated that the Commissioners had elected to postpone consideration of the JPC's request for funding for the work of Gerry Fisher (facilitation services for the development of an intergovernmental services agreement) pending their acceptance of the JPC's response to their earlier inquiries (as submitted by Attorney Mark Van Alsbury on the County's behalf). McManus stated that Van Alsbury had indicated that he was generally pleased with the JPC's response to his inquiries, but that several of the questions in his inquiries had not been fully answered. McManus stated that he had in turn explained to Van Alsbury that the outstanding issues had not been fully addressed because the JPC and the participating units of government had simply not resolved these issues as of this time. McManus stated that he explained to Van Alsbury that these matters were intended to be resolved through the process of developing an intergovernmental services agreement. McManus stated that he anticipated that the County Commission would respond back to the JPC in the near future.

Warren distributed the version of the Joint Land Use Plan that had officially been adopted by Rutland Township. Warren stated that this version of the Joint Land Use Plan was not necessarily identical to the versions adopted in other jurisdictions. Warren stated that Rutland had added a sentence exempting certain wetlands from the calculation of developed areas as necessary for expansion of urban service areas. Mansfield stated that Rutland had very clearly in conveying to the JPC previously that this language would be included in the version of the Joint Land Use Plan that the Township adopted. Mansfield stated that he did not see any reason that the JPC would be concerned about this language. Warren stated that she was distributing this version of the Joint Land Use Plan so that all present fully understood which version of the Plan had been adopted by Rutland Township.

Mansfield suggested that the JPC may wish to send the Joint Land Use Plan submitted by Rutland to the members of the JPC Advisory Group for their review and information. Warren reiterated that the version of the Plan presented at tonight's meeting was not the version adopted by all of the jurisdictions. McManus stated that the version of the Plan presented by Warren was slightly different than the version adopted by Barry County. McManus stated that the differences were very minor, and that he would likely address these differences with other changes to the Plan in the future. McManus suggested that Rutland's version of the Plan be distributed to the JPC Advisory Group rather than to wait for the County's version to be revised since Plan revision was a lengthy and cumbersome process. Carr stated that he would have Rutland's version revised to eliminate the edit notations, and distribute the Plan to the JPC Advisory Group.

Byrnes suggested that an explanation of the joint planning effort could be presented to all of the townships in Barry County for their information and possible use. Byrnes stated that such a presentation could be incorporated into her regular meetings with township officials. Carr stated that he would also be willing to attend the township meetings as his schedule allowed to present the work of the JPC.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the facilitated development of an intergovernmental service agreement between Rutland Township and the City of Hastings. Carr stated that Gerry Fisher would be meeting with the Rutland Township Board on Thursday May 20th to solicit their input regarding such an agreement. Carr stated that Fisher would be meeting on Thursday May 27th with the City of Hastings City Council to solicit their input. Carr stated that Fisher would then meet with a 10 person "working group" consisting of two representatives from each governmental jurisdiction participating on the JPC to attempt to develop an intergovernmental service agreement.

Carr asked for comments from the JPC Education Subcommittee. Byrnes stated that the MSU Extension Service had recently completed a seminar on the “New Economy 101” in Hastings, and would soon hold sessions on the “New Economy 201 and New Economy 301” in other communities. Byrnes encouraged those present to attend these sessions. Byrnes stated that there were funds available to assist those wishing to attend the Citizen Planner courses to pay for the cost of the course.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the JPC website and logo. Carr thanked those serving on the JPC website committee for their work to date. Redman stated that the JPC logo would rotate on the website so that the name of all of the jurisdictions would share time at the top of the logo. Redman stated that the JPC website should be operational by the 1st of July.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the USEPA brownfield site assessment grant program. Carr distributed a report prepared by SME documenting the work performed under the grant to date, as well as a report detailing a Phase II environmental site assessment to be performed by SME at the Dewey’s Auto Body site. Carr presented the minutes of the April 19, 2010 meeting of the JPC Brownfield Site Assessment Grant Subcommittee meeting. Mansfield read the Brownfield project evaluation criteria established by the JPC at the April meeting of the JPC, and stated that SME reviewed and approved the criteria for use by the JPC in evaluating sites for funding under the USEPA grant.

Carr reported that invitations had been mailed to the individuals on the list of candidates to serve on the JPC Advisory Group. Carr stated that he had received notice from several individuals including Rich Satterlee and Jeff Jennette indicating that they would agree to serve on the JPC Advisory Group. Carr stated that the letter also invited the individuals to attend the June meeting of the JPC. Carr stated that some of the individuals had conflicts with the current JPC meeting date. Carr suggested that the JPC consider possibly changing the time or date of the meeting when the Advisory Group convened. Wiswell suggested that Bill Wallace be invited to join the JPC Advisory Group as a representative from Hastings Mutual Insurance Company. Carr to send Wallace an invitation to join the JPC Advisory Group.

Carr asked for reports from those present regarding the status of adoption of Addendum No. 1 to the Intergovernmental Agreement changing the name of the JPC to the Joint Planning Alliance. It was reported that Barry County, Rutland Township, Carlton Township and the City of Hastings had adopted Addendum No. 1.

Brown stated that he would present Addendum No. 1 to Hastings Township at their next Board of Trustees meeting.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the list of work tasks to be completed by the JPC in 2010. Byrnes suggested that the JPC send out the solicitations for brownfield projects to be funded under the USEPA Grant as described on the list of work tasks. McManus to provide a list of names and addresses for known or suspected brownfield sites located within the jurisdictions of the brownfield coalition members. Carr to send out the solicitations to these property owners.

Carr reported that he and his administrative staff had been unable to find any additional sources of funding for the work of the JPC that generally met the needs of the JPC.

Carr asked for comments from the public. No public comment was forwarded.

Carr asked for additional comment from the members of the JPC.

Wiswell stated that he understood that the residents living on Algonquin Lake may be interested in pursuing a limited service agreement for sanitary sewer. Carr reported that he and Carpenter had recently attended meetings with the members of the Algonquin Lake Association and residents living on Algonquin Lake. Carr stated that it did not appear that there was interest in pursuing a sewer system for the lake at this time. Carr stated that he believed that the Lake Association would consider this matter again in later July.

McManus reported that the Gun and Gull Lake areas continued to pursue joint planning efforts and that the jurisdictions within these areas were looking at master plan revisions at this time. McManus reported that the Village of Nashville's consideration of alternate planning and zoning arrangements had slowed at this time. McManus reported that construction and development activity within Barry County was still very slow.

Carpenter stated that work on the Leach / Middle Lake sewer system was progressing well. Carpenter stated that the sewer mains had now been extended from the City to Leach Lake, and that the mains to Middle Lake were currently under construction. Carpenter stated that he expected the first individual STEP systems to be connected to the collection system in mid-June. Carpenter stated that work on the oxidation facility for the system was nearing completion. Carpenter reported that there was a very good article in

the recent Michigan Township Association magazine describing to the sewer system.

Wiswell stated that the Leach / Middle Lakes sewer project was a great project, and applauded Carpenter for his work on this project.

Byrnes reported that she was currently working with two small to medium manufacturing firms that would bring approximately 30 new jobs to Barry County. Byrnes stated that she hoped to be able to share more information on this matter soon. Byrnes stated that she and John Hart were also working with an aircraft manufacturer at the Hastings / Barry County Airport, and with the developer of the hotel in Rutland Township.

Medendorp stated that he believed that tonight's meeting was a positive and productive meeting, and that he was proud of the City and the Townships.

Brown thanked Carpenter for his work on the Leach / Middle Lakes project. Brown offered to assist Carr with his presentation of the joint planning effort to all of the townships in Barry County.

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

Motion by Redman, second by Medendorp to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield
Secretary