

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2010**

Members Present: Haywood, McManus, Redman, Warren, Medendorp, Jasperse, Mansfield, Brown, Carr.

Members Absent: Miner, Wiswell, Carpenter, Lenz.

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 comment regarding the minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, the agenda for the October 20, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the draft minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the draft minutes of the November 1, 2010 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission. No comment was forwarded.

Motion by Redman, second by Haywood to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee as presented, and to receive and place on file the agenda for the October 20, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the draft minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the draft minutes of the November 1, 2010 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried.

Carr asked for comment from the public.

Redman introduced Zack Cummings of Boy Scout Troop 175 and his mother Amy Cummings. Redman stated that Zack was seeking a merit badge, and was attending tonight's meeting to satisfy a portion of the requirements for this merit badge. The JPA welcomed Zack to the meeting, and asked him to sit with the board at the meeting table and participate in discussions at the meeting.

Carr introduced Bonnie Hildreth of the Barry Community Foundation. Hildreth explained that she was present at tonight's meeting to discuss a proposal from the Rockford Companies to assist the County. Hildreth explained that Michelle Skedgell of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute was also present at the meeting tonight to learn about this topic.

Hildreth stated that Rockford's proposal included development of an alternative energy and energy use reduction opportunities. Hildreth stated that Rockford would develop "shovel ready" projects on the County's behalf, and then assist the County in finding sources of funding for these projects. Hildreth stated that it was difficult for many units of government to develop these projects on their own, and then seek funding to accomplish the projects.

Mansfield explained that Rockford proposed to team with Technical Energy Solutions (TES) on this project. Mansfield stated that TES had worked for the City for many years. Mansfield stated that Rockford / TES first approached the City to propose the energy initiative project, but that after discussing the project in some depth, the team felt that the project did not "fit" within only the City's boundaries. Mansfield stated that the project was now initially being proposed for the JPA participating jurisdictions, as well as the local school systems and private sector businesses. Mansfield stated that the Rockford / TES team could not only develop alternative energy and energy reduction projects, but could identify funding sources and solicit funding for such projects.

Hildreth stated that the Barry Community Foundation was also very interested in participating in the project, and that she had asked Michelle Skedgell and Pierce

Cedar Creek Institute if they would like to be involved as well. Hildreth stated that she and Mansfield were to meet with Rockford / TES in the next several weeks to discuss the “next steps”. Hildreth explained that a larger informational meeting was planned for shortly after the first of the New Year, and that many potential participants would be invited to attend this meeting.

Carr thanked Hildreth and Skedgell for attending tonight’s meeting. Carr asked if Jim Wincek or Keith Ferris (additional attendees at the meeting) if they wished to offer comment on any matter. Wincek and Ferris declined comment.

Lenz arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Carr asked for reports from those present regarding activities in their jurisdictions.

Mansfield stated that the City Council was considering code amendments to regulate electronic and LED signage within the City. Mansfield stated that the City had recently adopted an ordinance banning medical marijuana dispensaries in the City. Mansfield reported that the City was considering a zoning text amendment change to allow multi-story accessory structures in the Apartment-Office zoning district. Mansfield stated that the City was considering a number of minor zoning classification changes in and around the downtown area, and asked if the JPA would like to review those zoning changes. Carr stated that the changes should be brought to the JPA, for their review and comment. Mansfield stated that he would provide the zoning ordinance changes once they were complete and ready for consideration by the City.

McManus stated that he had nothing to report on behalf of Barry County, but noted that Tom Katzel of MDOT would be retiring in the near future.

Haywood stated that there was nothing new to report from Rutland Township.

Carr and Haywood stated that Rutland Township had delayed further consideration of revisions to the Township’s Master Plan to reflect the Joint Land Use Plan and amendment of the Township’s zoning ordinance to reflect the joint zoning overlay until such time as an intergovernmental services agreement had been developed and approved by the jurisdictions. Haywood stated that the Township’s attorney had recommended that the Township delay action on the Master Plan amendment and joint zoning overlay until such time as the intergovernmental agreement referenced in these documents was developed.

Carr reported that the Intergovernmental Agreement Working group had met with consultant Gerry Fisher on November 11, 2010. Carr stated that the work group had reviewed a concept agreement prepared by Fisher, and had provided input and suggestions related to this concept agreement. Carr stated that Fisher was to make several changes to the agreement based on the input from the working group, as well as on input that he would receive from Carr and Mansfield (at the working group's suggestion) later this week. Carr stated that Fisher would then present the revised concept agreement to the working group for approval, and if the agreement was approved, to the JPA and the jurisdictions for their approval.

Carr stated that Rutland Township would be holding a meeting to solicit public input and comment related to Barry County trails at a meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Carr invited all of the members of the JPA to attend this meeting.

Carr asked Brown to provide a report regarding the efforts of the JPA Education Committee. Brown stated that the JPA had sponsored an informational booth at the recent Barry County Economic Development Expo and Summit. Brown stated that this was a very well attended and successful event. Brown stated that the members of the JPA present at the booth had addressed a number of questions related to activities in the Hastings area.

Carr asked Redman to provide a report on the status of the JPA website. Redman stated that the website had not been updated in a timely fashion recently. Redman stated that the County was not receiving the information necessary to update the website, and that he had asked Mansfield to send the JPA meeting packets directly to the County from this point forward. Redman stated that he believed that this would address the issue, and that the website would be appropriately updated in the future.

Carr asked if Byrnes wished to report on the Barry County Economic Development Alliances recent Business Expo and Summit. Byrnes stated that she had received many favorable comments regarding the Expo and Summit. Byrnes stated that she had also received several suggestions for improvements that could be incorporated into the Expo and Summit in coming years. Byrnes stated that many attendees expressed that they were pleased to have an opportunity to learn about some of the newer or smaller businesses now operating in Barry County. Byrnes stated that overall she believed that the Expo and Summit were very successful, particularly considering that this was the first year for the Expo.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the list of work tasks to be completed by the JPA during 2010. Carr read the current task list. No suggestions for amendments to the list were forwarded.

Carr asked for additional comment from any members of the public in attendance. No additional comments were forwarded.

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

Redman stated that there are currently two roads named Strickland Road in Barry County. Redman stated that the northerly of the two roads would be renamed "Gary Carpenter Road" in recognition of Barry County resident Gary Carpenter. Redman explained that Carpenter had lost his life aboard on the USS Scorpion in the late 1960's. Redman stated that a ceremony honoring the name change would be held on February 1st.

Byrnes stated that a grass roots group interested in improving internet service in Barry County would be conducting a survey of the current internet service available throughout the County. Byrnes stated that the group was currently seeking methods for distribution of the survey, and asked that the members of the JPA contact her if they know of any mailings, newsletters, etc. that could include the survey. Byrnes stated that once the survey was complete, the group would be seeking methods to address gaps in internet service availability or quality.

Brown stated that the City of Hastings was currently experiencing some difficulty related to the acceptance of septage at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Brown suggested that the JPA or the governmental jurisdictions in the JPA may wish to explore the development of a septage receiving station. Brown suggested that such a facility could be located at the Hastings Waste Management Landfill or in the area near the landfill. Brown stated that the liquid component of the septage could be sent back to the City in the new Carlton/Hastings sewer system. Carr stated that such a facility may actually generate revenue for the units of government involved.

Stolsonburg stated that a new representative from the Barry County Commission would likely be appointed to serve in his place on the JPA in the near future. Stolsonburg stated that it was likely that he would be replaced after the first of the year.

Redman reported that approximately 95% of the homes on Leach Lake in the Carlton and Hastings sewer system special assessment district were now connected to and served by the new STEP sewer system. Redman reported that there were 7 or 8 residences on Gaskill Road yet to be connected. Redman stated that the force mains had been constructed along much of Culbert Drive, and that many of the meters and electric services had been installed in the homes along Culbert in anticipation of connection to the system in the near future.

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

Motion by Medendorp, second by Haywood to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield  
Secretary