

MICHIGAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD MEETING

March 19, 2018

Village of Mackinaw City
102 Huron Street
Mackinaw City, Michigan

AMENDED 3/29/18

Board Members Present:

Laura Braun, RD Fund Board Member

Margaret Minerick, RD Fund Board Member

Fred Taccolini, RD Fund Board Member

Peter Anastor, attending on behalf of Chair Gordon Wenk, MDARD

Board Members Absent:

Other Attendees:

Heather Throne, MDARD

Spence Riggs, Mason County Growth Alliance

Brad Barnett, Western UP Planning & Development Region Commission

The meeting was called to order by Peter Anastor at 1:00 p.m.

Peter Anastor welcomed the Board to the meeting and all present gave a brief introduction of their name and organization.

MOTION: Margaret Minerick moved to approve the September 6, 2017, meeting minutes. Seconded by Laura Braun. Motion carried.

Presentations were given by two awarded grant projects:

Spence Riggs, Mason County Growth Alliance, discussed the regional trail connectivity for Region 4 consisting of Lake, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana counties. The overall goal of the project is to create a guide/vision for future development of trail assets to provide connectivity in the region.

Brad Barnett, Western UP Planning & Development Region Commission, provided an overview of the feasibility study for community photovoltaic Solar Generation System with the Village of L'Anse. This was a partnership with the village, Michigan Technological University, WPPI Energy, and Western UP Planning & Development Region. Brad stated the overall impact from the \$27,230 grant was ~\$150,000.

Peter Anastor and Heather Throne provided an update on the 11 awarded Rural Development Grants for 2018.

- **City of Escanaba** - \$99,300. Replacement of aeration blowers for the city's wastewater plant, resulting in expanded capacity and considerable savings for all area residents and businesses using the system.
- **Connect Nation, of Elk Rapids** - \$70,000. Conduct a regional analysis with Northeast Michigan Council of Governments on local policies, ordinances, and asset inventory for streamlining broadband infrastructure.
- **Food for Thought, of Honor** - \$88,000. Procurement of new equipment for value-added manufacturing to build institutional packaging capacity at its new Traverse City facility.
- **Indian Summer Cooperative Inc., of Ludington**, \$100,000. Conduct facility wastewater system upgrades to meet production needs for fruit juices and sauces.
- **Marquette County Road Commission** - \$100,000. Conduct preliminary engineering for reconstruction of CR492 to improve safety and provide a more reliable route for the mining and forestry industries.
- **Michigan Blueberry Commission, of Fennville** - \$99,300. Infrastructure investment for modern blueberry planting for research, supporting the expansion and sustainability of blueberry growers.
- **Negaunee Township, of Marquette** - \$100,000. Expansion of the Township's existing water system to provide services to properties along the south side of US-41.
- **PM Power Group Inc., of White Pine** - \$100,000. Create a pilot program to determine final costs to process and remediate stamp sands in White Pine.
- **Village of L'Anse** - \$45,000. Construct a community solar array for the Village's municipal electric utility.
- **Village of Newberry** - \$55,305. Enhance and upgrade the Village's financial software to a new integrated financial management system.
- **Village of Pentwater** - \$35,000. Conduct planning, design, and improve critical street, parking walking, and biking facilities utilizing Michigan's "Complete Streets" approach.

Heather Throne stated the department would be issuing a press release following the meeting announcing the grant awards and requesting public comment on the grant process. All public comment should be received by May 22, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

It was discussed that the next meeting be scheduled in September 2018 in Mackinaw City. The Board requested MDARD to schedule the meeting.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: Margaret Minerick moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m. Seconded by Fred Taccolini.