

**I. Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.

**II. Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Peter Novak and Carmen Fernandez. Six members were present constituting a quorum.

**III. Special Order of Business:**

Chairman Morris, on behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels presented Chancellor Cohen with the Distinguished Hoosiers award. Chancellor Cohen also received an award for exemplary services as RDA Board member.

Peter Novak was sworn into the RDA Board by Attorney Hollenbeck. P. Novak has taken the place of Chancellor Cohen on the RDA Board.

**IV. Election of Officers:**

Chancellor Cohen served as the Treasurer of the RDA since its inception. L. Martinez moved to nominate B. Joiner as treasurer of the RDA. The motion was seconded by C. Fernandez. All were in favor of the motion and it was approved.

**V. Public Comment:** *None.*

**VI. Consent Agenda:** H. Snyder moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by B. Joiner. All were in favor of the motion, and the consent agenda was approved.

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|--|-----------------|
| <i>a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 9/22/09:</u></i>                | <b>Approved</b> |
| <i>b. <u>Minutes of the Working Group of the Whole of 10/8/2009:</u></i> | <b>Approved</b> |
| <i>c. <u>Treasurer's Report – September, 2009:</u></i>                   | <b>Approved</b> |
| <i>d. <u>September Consultants Report:</u></i>                           | <b>Approved</b> |
| <i>e. <u>Executive Directors Report:</u></i>                             | <b>Approved</b> |
| <i>f. <u>Chairman's Report:</u></i>                                      | <b>Approved</b> |

**VII. Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**

*a. Public Comment:* *None.*

*b. MBE/WBE Exemption Policy:*

B. Hanna reported that since the Working Group meeting on October 8, 2009 the suggested changes by the Board have been made and legal review has occurred. B. Hanna recommended approval of all three documents by the Board.

B. Joiner moved to adopt the MBE/WBE Exemption Policy, MBE/WBE Request for Exemption, and the Buy-Indiana Policy and Procedures. The motion was seconded by Peter Novak.

Roll Call Vote on Motion:

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| C. Fernandez | yes |
| P. Novak     | yes |
| B. Joiner    | yes |
| L. Morris    | yes |
| H. Snyder    | yes |

L. Martinez      yes

c. **MBE/WBE Request for Exemption:** Approved, see above.

d. **Buy-Indiana Policy and Procedures:** Approved, see above.

VIII. **Project Status Review:** The status of each of the Working Groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in the work plan review.

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

b. **Regional Bus Authority:** L. Martinez reported that meetings between the City of Hammond, RDA, RBA and First Transit are ongoing. T. Brown with the RBA has been asked to provide the RDA Board with an update. Rick Calinski with the City of Hammond expressed his appreciation of support during this transition. A full presentation will come forward to the RDA Board on November 17, 2009 for approval.

T. Brown reported that Alan Winn of HDR, Inc has been hired to develop and write the Operations and Services Plan in conjunction with RBA staff and City of Hammond staff. T. Brown discussed the City of Hammond proposal. This proposal, if approved, will provide Hammond Indiana and the surrounding neighborhoods continued public transportation by consolidating local service and expanding regional service with the RBA. The plan will aim at improving mobility, provide a more effective and consistent service, and address fiscal constraints.

Board members H. Snyder, L. Martinez, and L. Morris gave recognition to the City of Hammond for their efforts to regionalize the bus systems in northwest Indiana.

L. Morris reinforced the coordination between the RDA and NICTD. L. Morris also stated that the RDA is only a temporary funding solution, and reiterated that finding a permanent funding source is vital.

R. Calinski recognized that the bus service would need to find a permanent funding source.

c. **Lake Shore Development:** B. Joiner reported that the assessment study involving Gary and East Chicago is in its final stages. One major concern is making sure there is a harmonious co-existence of not only shoreline development but also high speed rail and identify conflicts and manage those conflicts well, as well as conflicts with the Gary Airport.

T. Rongers spoke with the Lakefront Revitalization team and the edits to the report have been made.

d. **Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:** C. Curry reported that the L&B Business Plan is moving forward as it relates to the relocation of the CN railroad. The Airport is looking at property that must be accrued and will start appraisals and address environmental concerns. The Airport is also moving ahead with the Gary school properties, court hearing was October 8<sup>th</sup>. The judge appointed appraisers for November 10<sup>th</sup> for reporting December 10<sup>th</sup>.

e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder reported that the total work on the new NICTD cars is 100% complete as of the third quarter of calendar year 2009. H. Snyder marked this as one more success of the RDA.

L. Morris reported that 70% of the train car components were American made.

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

- b. General and Special Consulting Services Selection Announcement:** B. Hanna stated that the Board went through an exhaustive process in determining the final selection of general and special consulting services for the RDA. For special consulting services it has been recommended that the Board choose to utilize B&D, and for general consulting services the utilization of Policy Analytics.

B. Joiner moved to approve the contracts for B&D and Policy Analytics upon final review of legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Peter Novak.

Roll Call Vote on Motion:

C. Fernandez	yes
P. Novak	yes
B. Joiner	yes
L. Morris	yes
H. Snyder	yes
L. Martinez	yes

- c. MIC Coordinator Job Search:** The RDA has engaged ODS to assist in hiring a Marquette Implementation Coordinator. 223 resumes have been received thus far. 72 candidates have been reviewed by the selection committee. The partnership is made up of John Swanson with NIRPC and Mike Molnar with the DNR. The net has been cast nationwide to draw in as many qualified candidates as possible.
- d. Financial Review:** B. Sheldrake reported that Policy Analytics has been working on the RDA annual report due mid November, 2009, and also an update to the comprehensive strategic plan. The update to the comprehensive strategic plan will make certain that as the Board is making spending decisions; they ensure they are consistent with the current plan, or making modifications to the current plan as needed, and future spending. B. Sheldrake reported that the core of the financial review that go to the annual report and the comprehensive update will be provided to the Board at the November Board meeting.
- e. Ratification of Amendment to Little Calumet River Basin Commission:** D. Hollenbeck stated that in the fall of 2007 the RDA Board entered into a funding grant agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC). The ratification of amendment to this grant agreement is to document a certain understanding, agreements and commitments made by the RDA and LCRBDC. The state money has not come as quickly, and caused some cash flow problems for the LCRBDC. This is outlined in the amendment, allowing up to \$250,000 for administrative expenses until reimbursement by the state to the LCRBDC. D. Hollenbeck recommended adoption of the document.

B. Joiner moved for approval of the amendment to the Little Calumet River Basin Commission. P. Novak seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion, and it was approved.

- f. Other:** *None.*

**X. New Business:**

- a. Public Comment:**

Alan Hinny from Porter County called the Board's attention to several issues regarding regional transportation, i.e. NICTD trains are inaccessible in Beverly Shores. He is concerned with stereotypes that address people with disabilities and how to serve those individuals. He would like to see transportation useable by individuals with disabilities.

L. Morris stated that the RDA is supportive of ADA compliance in every respect, internally and through RDA grantees.

H. Snyder commended A. Hanny for his approach which was reasonable and understanding.

**b. MBE/WBE Quarterly Update:**

Desila Rosetti referenced Attachment L as the first report of ODS on MBE/WBE compliance. Attachment M (attached to Board minutes) was recommended for approval by B. Hanna after his review, which documentation that accompanies each exemption request. These exemptions include land acquisition, operating costs, studies, and utility relocation.

B. Joiner moved to approve exemptions listed on Attachment M. The motion was seconded by L. Martinez.

D. Rosetti reported on Attachment L, the MBE/WBE quarterly report. The report uses a colored "dot system" that addresses green as no issues, yellow as monitor closely, and red as action required.

H. Snyder stated that the L&B Business Plan in their grant agreement was specific to MBE/WBE compliance. H. Snyder believed that the "monitor closely" suggests that the RDA has someone trying to sneak something by the Board. In the L&B Business Plan they have minorities associated in their plan.

D. Rosetti assured H. Snyder that yellow does not indicate that someone is trying to sneak something by the Board. Each exemption will be filed in the grantees file.

B. Joiner moved to remove the GYY L&B Business Plan from the exemption list, attachment M. The motion was seconded by L. Morris. All were in favor of the motion.

**c. Financial Audit RFP:**

S. Shabaz reported that the RDA issued a Request for Proposals on October 16<sup>th</sup> for CPA firms to provide financial auditing services to the RDA for the period commencing on January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2009. Proposals will be due by Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

**XI. Other Business:**

**a. Public Comment:** *None.*

**b. Other:**

L. Morris suggested that the RDA pay close attention to northwest Indiana in regards to compliance, and to look at ways to encourage contracts be awarded to contractors of northwest Indiana. B. Joiner believed it was included in the Buy-Indiana policy already adopted. B. Hanna will look into the issue.

**XII. Future Meeting Planning:**

**a. 11/17/2009:** Purdue Technology Center, Crown Point. Chairman Morris requested it be held in the Town of Porter.

**b. 12/29/2009:** TBA

**XIII. General Public Comment:**

T. Rongers on behalf of the Policy Analytics team thanked the RDA for choosing their team, and looks forward to working with the RDA and the communities of northwest Indiana.

C. Meyers stated that the Marquette Park Kickoff Meeting will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the recreations pavilion. The RDA Board has been invited to attend.

**XIV. Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on November 2, 2009