

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

At a meeting of the **Economic Development Committee**, held Thursday, December 8, 2011, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Carabelli-Co-Chair, Flynn-Co-Chair, Miller, Mocerri, Sabatini, Smith, Tocco and Vosburg (ex-officio).

Absent and excused was Gralewski.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Fraschetti

There being a quorum of the committee present, Co-Chair Carabelli called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Sabatini, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include item #5A). **The Motion Carried.**

STATUS UPDATE ON THE MACOMB COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM

John Crumm gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key topics consisted of the following:

- 70-Mile County Network
- Utica-Shelby Connector
- Mount Clemens-Gratiot Loop
- Harrison Township Trails
- Harrison Township Neighborhood Trails
- Lake St. Clair Shoreline Trail
- Jefferson Trail, New Baltimore Connector, County Line Trail, County Line Road Trail, Richmond Main Street Trail, Macomb Orchard Trail Phases II and III, State Infrastructure Loan, Revegetation Plan, Romeo Trailside Park, Romeo Trailhead Park, 2011 Totals, 2012 Projected Totals, 2013 Projected Totals, Revegetation Current Situation, Revegetation Fencing, and Macomb County Non-Motorized.

Co-Chair Carabelli thought consideration should be given for putting together a plan for a multi-year phase of plantings utilizing the \$500,000 received from ITC that has been

directed towards the portions of the Macomb Orchard Trail that were clear-cut. He then inquired about the number of completed miles along the 70-mile loop and about Selfridge and the State of Michigan DNR Trust Fund. John Crumm answered these inquiries.

Co-Chair Carabelli noted once the Utica-Shelby portion of the trail is connected, people will be able to go from the most northern part of the Macomb Orchard Trail all the way out to Metro Beach.

Commissioner Smith questioned if some of the \$500,000 will be used for erosion issues caused by ITC clear-cutting and if it is being discussed with ITC. John Crumm felt it is a discussion that needs to take place.

Co-Chair Flynn inquired how road construction is done in terms of planning a road. He recalled Commissioner Gralewski previously brought up this issue and has received numerous complaints about consecutive roads being under construction. Bob Hoepfner provided an explanation.

MOTION

A motion was made by Tocco, supported by Smith, to receive and file the status update on the Macomb County Trail System. **The Motion Carried.**

REVIEW OF MSU EXTENSION 2012 BUDGET

Marie Ruemenapp is the District Coordinator with MSU Extension for Macomb County.

She reported on a major item coming out of the statewide restructuring. The proposal is to move to a formula-based funding system and that recommendation is in the process of being implemented across the state with counties.

She overviewed the proposed MSU Extension 2012 budget which reflects the change to a formula-based funding system. The formula amount for Macomb County is \$283,293. She overviewed staffing levels and reported the budget was reduced by about \$32,000. She noted the proposed budget reflects some major shifting of dollars.

She referred to the contracts and grants section of the proposed budget and noted the amount in 2011 reflected \$465,377 and the recommended amount for 2012 is \$111,688. The major difference is fund balances and rollovers of grants which are not reflected in the recommended amount for 2012. She noted once the budget is passed they will come back and have those fund balances forwarded.

Commissioners Carabelli, Flynn and Mocerri directed numerous questions to Marie Ruemenapp. Key areas discussed included:

- The grant to support foreclosure education
- No cuts to services

- Staffing levels
- Reorganization resulting in more educational services being provided to Macomb County residents
- Statewide restructuring
- Hiring additional staff in the upcoming months, but most positions will be filled in Wayne County
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars
- Formula funding for Macomb County being \$283,293
- Expenditures: Personnel line item reflecting a reduction over \$231,000
- Expenditures: Supplies & Services line item reflecting an increase over \$204,000.

MOTION

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Miller, to receive and file the review of the MSU Extension 2012 budget. **The Motion Carried.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Smith, to receive and file the update on upcoming events. **The Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Marie Ruemenapp indicated MSU Extension may have some resources through faculty to assist in identifying appropriate species to repopulate the ITC sections of the trail. If the county is interested in pursuing that further to let her know.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Sabatini, supported by Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**



Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter