

River Area Council of Governments
January 25, 2022

Members present: H. Birchenough, W. McIlroy, R. Mullin, S. Storms,
C. Terrillion, F. Wadsworth, T. Widrick, and J. Zando

Others: M. Dietrich and J. Harvill

Chairman McIlroy called the remote meeting to order at 6:00pm.
Motion by J. Zando, seconded by S. Storms to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021. All in favor.

M. Dietrich introduced Heidi Lehman, a member of the Friends of the Black River. Ms. Lehman reported that based on recent information that has been discovered it is probable that members of the Mississauga First Nation wintered in the Castorland area. Ms. Lehman has been contacted by a number of Chiefs who are very interested in gathering more information, including Chief Carr of the Hiawatha Nation.

M. Dietrich reviewed responses to the recent survey completed by RACOG members regarding the Council of Governments. Chairman McIlroy requested that the reported survey results be disseminated to all members.

Circuit Rider report

M. Dietrich reported on a number of topics:

- No new information regarding the railroad bed.
- Josh Lumsden is the new intern working at THC and working on the Black River website.
- LED lighting is proceeding in the NYPA communities.
- New Bremen has expressed interest in a Cooperative Lewis County ZBA. No other community has responded.
- Scott Burto has expressed interest in having a promotional video of the RACOG area produced.
- Jeff-Lewis BOCES is updating material costs for communities involved in the Complete Streets project.

New Business

- Motion by S. Storms to nominate and elect W. McIlroy as Chairman and J. Zando as Vice-chairman. Approved by consensus.
- M. Dietrich reviewed proposed costs for an Associate Circuit Rider suggesting a rate of \$18/hr including travel time and reporting plus IRS mileage reimbursement. He further suggested either using an associate on an as needed basis or setting a maximum expenditure if

the Council chooses to proceed. B. Peck, T/Champion Supervisor, recommended tabling the discussion until more members were in attendance to discuss the proposal. Members agreed by consensus.

- M. Dietrich discussed proposals for the maintenance and support of the RACOG websites and email services.

Brian Phelps has requested \$1,500 to provide website and email maintenance, development support and will handle any security issues that may arise or need to be addressed . Mr. Phelps will make himself available to any RACOG member to answer questions concerning the websites, email services etc.. Mr. Phelps designed the original RACOG website and has maintained it since June, 2000.

Riverside Media has proposed a fee of \$1,365 which includes website and email maintenance, ten (10) hours of development and support, and a brief bullet point list of duties performed during the contract term.

J. Zando recommended tabling the issue until the next meeting. Members agreed by consensus.

- Motion by B. Peck, seconded by J. Zando to adopt the 2022 preliminary budget as the final budget as presented. All in favor.

Motion by B. Peck, seconded by J. Zando to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

Christina Vargulick

Christina Vargulick
RACOG Secretary