

River Area Council of Governments
January 25, 2023

Members present: J.Zando, J. Jones, R. Vary, B. Peck, R. Grunert, K. Vogt,
T. Widrick, S. Storms, C. Terrillion, P. Smith, and Y. Boliver

Others: M. Dietrich and J. Harvill

Vice-Chair Zando called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
Motion by B. Peck, seconded by S. Storms to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022. All in favor.

Circuit Rider Report

M. Dietrich discussed a report from the RACOG Economic Visioning Summit Steering Committee. The committee is seeking ways to encourage more private business involvement. The report also included a number of action items discussed later in the meeting.

M. Dietrich presented the draft CGI video noting a small number of necessary corrections.

New Business

- Election of Officers – Motion by T. Widrick, seconded by S. Storms to elect B. Peck-Chairman and J. Zando-Vice-Chair. All in favor.
- Council members reviewed the 2023 preliminary budget. Motion by B. Peck, seconded by T. Widrick to approve the budget as presented. All in favor.
- Motion by T. Widrick, seconded by B. Peck to sponsor the THC Local Government Conference at the bronze level (\$500). All in favor.
- Council members discussed holding a 2023 economic summit in Lewis County. The meeting would be held at the BOCES in Glenfield with the culinary class providing refreshments at a cost of \$10/guest. Motion by B. Peck, seconded by J. Zando to schedule the conference as discussed. All in favor.
- The economic steering committee had questioned whether RACOG would be willing to support projects financially and/or act as lead agent for grants. J. Zando and B. Peck agreed that the Council would consider proposals on a case by case basis based on the regional benefit.
- J. Zando recommended contracting with an associate circuit rider based on the number of member communities and conflicts in meeting dates. M. Dietrich estimated the annual cost at \$1,600. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by T. Widrick to authorize M. Dietrich to identify an interested and qualified person to act as an associate circuit rider. All in favor.

- M. Dietrich presented four(4) quotes for digital radar signs. The apparent low bid was from Traffic Systems Incorporated at a cost of \$2,150/sign and \$155/data collection package plus shipping. J. Zando questioned if a spare sign should be purchased by RACOG. C. Vargulick questioned the impact on warranty coverage. The question was tabled.
- Members discussed future meeting topics. The members supported a round table meeting that would include county officials and other interested parties for the September meeting and discussed a presentation regarding the MRB plan being developed for the Towns of Champion and Wilna and the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage. The Council supported a webinar presentation from NYClass regarding the investment of municipal funds.
- The next RACOG meeting is scheduled for May. Motion by B. Peck, seconded by S. Storms to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Christina Vargulick

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RACOG Secretary