

MEETING MINUTES
Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development
Interim Board of Directors

10 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2022
420 Watson Powell Jr. Way Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50309

The interim Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development ("MIPA") held a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting at 10 a.m. January 4, 2022. Board members were allowed to attend virtually via Zoom because it was determined to be impracticable to require in-person attendance due to the risks related to COVID-19. Notice of the meeting, including a meeting agenda, was delivered to the interim Board members in accordance with MIPA bylaws.

ATTENDANCE

MIPA Interim Board Members Present

Brenda Dryer, Chair
Carrie Kruse, Treasurer
Clyde Evans, Vice Chair
Amanda Accola
Tanya Michener
Hollie Zajicek
Jeff Davidson
Derek Lord
Rachel Gocken
Lorin Ditzler
Deb Bengtson

Staff Present

Todd Ashby
Dylan Mullenix
Zach Young
Gunnar Olson
Zhi Chen
Scott Brennan

MIPA Interim Board Members Absent

Curtis Brown
Alex Lynch
Carla Eysink
Wade Wagoner
Don DeWaard
Charlie Dissell, Secretary
Mike Swesey
Deven Markley
Mike Hammond
Butch Ostrander
Kyle Michael
Brandon Talsma
Heather Ussery
Dylan Morse
Leanne Harter
John Norris
Joe Mrstik
Mark Jackson
Greg Piklapp

1. Call to Order

MIPA Chair Brenda Dryer called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was lacking. Per legal counsel recommendation, the meeting proceeding with the understanding that all actions would be taken by the present board members, subject to their ratification at the April 5 board meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The item was moved by Davidson, seconded by Accola, and the item passed by unanimous vote, subject to ratification.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

The item was moved Gocken, seconded by Zajicek, and passed by unanimous vote, subject to ratification.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. FY22 Budget

Mullenix summarized the FY22 budget, which had been introduced and discussed at the February board meeting. Staff recommended that the interim board of directors adopt the budget for the first quarter of operations, i.e. FY2022 fourth quarter, and asking the full board of directors to adopt the FY2023 budget.

A motion to approve the FY2022 budget was moved by Evans, seconded by Davidson, and was approved by unanimous vote, subject to ratification.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Contract with MPO

Olson summarized the components of the planned contract that MIPA will hold with the Des Moines Area MPO. Staff recommended voting on one component of that contract – the Joint Employment Agreement – in March and voting on the overall contract in April.

A motion to approve the Joint Employment Agreement was moved by Kruse, seconded by Lord, and was passed by unanimous vote, subject to ratification.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. State Auditor's Opinion

Olson provided background on concerns from the State Auditor's Office about the organization's structure as a 504 nonprofit, as opposed to a 28E. Staff reported that the underlying concern of the auditor's opinion was to assure that public dollars were being used for public purpose as outlined in Iowa Chapter 15A. Olson provided background on the reasons why MIPA was formed as a 504 nonprofit. Staff also recommended the board pass a resolution stating MIPA's public purpose in accordance with Iowa Chapter 15. The board concurred that the organization would serve a public purpose by working to obtain new jobs and investment within the EDD and retain jobs and investment within the EDD.

A motion for a statement of public purpose was made by Davidson, seconded by Gocken, and passed unanimously, subject to ratification.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Membership

Olson reported that 46 jurisdictions had joined MIPA, with populations representing more than 80 percent of the Mid-Iowa region's population. He noted that more may join mid-year, as allowed by the bylaws.

8. Partnership Program

Olson reported that the application to the Partnership Program had been submitted on deadline. He said the application was still under review by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, noting that staff continued to anticipate and plan for an April 1 start date.

9. Grants

Olson outlined a timeline to transition MIPA from its interim board to its full-time board of directors and executive committee. The transition will begin in March with solicitations of member jurisdictions' board appointments, then appointments of private sector reps and the seating of the executive committee will be made in April. Finally, the first annual meeting of the fulltime board of directors will be held in May, likely the morning of Thursday, May 26.

There was board discussion about meeting dates, and among those present there was consensus that Thursday mornings would be a good option.

10. ARPA Grant Applications

Olson provided an update on the EDA grant program for which four Mid-Iowa projects are under consideration. Notably, the Denver region has \$19.1 million to spend in a 10-state region, and more than \$90 million in requests. In Iowa, there are seven applications, including four from the Mid-Iowa region. EDA staff are reviewing the applications in March and awards should be announced by the end of March.

11. Other Business

Olson noted that potential partner organizations had been reaching out to MIPA for possible collaboration, including the Jacobson Institute at Grandview University and the Polk County Emergency Management.

12. Adjournment

Dryer adjourned the meeting of the Board at 10:37 a.m.