

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

10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 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. April 5, 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
Clyde Evans, Vice Chair
Tanya Michener
Curtis Brown
Alex Lynch
Carla Eysink
Deb Bengtson
Don DeWaard
Charlie Dissell, Secretary
Leanne Harter
Hollie Zajicek
Mark Jackson
Ryan Moffatt
Lorin Ditzler
Rachel Gocken
Mike Hammond
Mike Swesey

Guests Present

Stacie LaVon

Staff Present

Todd Ashby
Dylan Mullenix
Zach Young
Gunnar Olson
Andrew Collings
Zhi Chen

MIPA Interim Board Members Absent

Jeff Davidson
Derek Lord
Amanda Accola
Wade Wagoner
Deven Markley
Butch Ostrander
Kyle Michael
Brandon Talsma
Heather Ussery
Dylan Morse
John Norris
Joe Mrstik
Greg Piklapp

1. Call to Order

MIPA Chair Brenda Dryer called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The item was moved by Bengtson, seconded by DeWaard, and the item passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

The item was moved DeWaard, seconded by Lynch, and passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. March Board Actions

The March interim board meeting lacked quorum, and on legal counsel's advice, the board elected to vote on items, subject to ratification by the board in April. Olson recapped the voting items from the March meeting.

The item was moved by Lynch, seconded by Eysink, and was approved by unanimous vote.

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 approval.

The item was moved by DeWaard, seconded by Lynch, and was passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Closed Session

MIPA's bylaws call for the board to adhere to Iowa's public meeting laws. In keeping with those laws, Olson provided a legal justification for going into close session under Chapter 21.5:

i. To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to

prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

The item was moved by Evans, seconded by Swesey, and passed unanimously.

After discussion, the board voted to come out of closed session. The motion was made by Evans, seconded by Zajicek, and was passed unanimously.

7. Staffing

Olson provided an overview of the process to find a candidate for the MIPA senior planner position and recommended a candidate for the board's consideration.

A motion to extend an employment offer to the candidate was made by Swesey, seconded by Moffatt, and was unanimously passed by the board.

8. Membership

Olson reported that 47 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.

9. Partnership Program

Olson reported that the application to the Partnership Program was nearly finalized and was awaiting a few more signatures from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

10. Board and Executive Committee

Olson updated the board on the timeline of transition the interim board to the full-time board.

11. Bylaws

Olson briefed the board on two potential issues with the bylaws that were identified by MIPA member jurisdictions as they have been filling their board appointments. Namely, two members asked if alternates could be sent for the regular board member, and stakeholders in one county identified a potential issue of getting active representatives from the smaller jurisdictions in their county.

The board discussed potential solutions, and ultimately decided to leave the bylaws as initially drafted for at least the first year to see how it goes, then reassess in another year.

12. 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. He reported that the EDA declined to fund at least one of the grant applications from Mid-Iowa and that news would soon follow for the other three applications.

13. Other Business

LoVan spoke about the findings of the regional Broadband Study and the steps being taken to implement it. As such, she said that MIPA had been identified as an ideal partner to lead the infrastructure component of implementation, working with jurisdictions and private partners to identify and secure funding.

Olson noted that, from a staff perspective, there was clean alignment with the Broadband Study's findings and the goals of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The board discussed and there was no disagreement on MIPA playing a role here.

14. Adjournment

Dryer adjourned the meeting of the Board at 10:36 a.m.