

## **2/27/2020 ECRTCC Meeting – Notes/Minutes**

**ECRDC Conference Room ~ 10am – noon**

**Mora, MN**

**Attendance:** Bob Bollenbeck, Ben Byker, Kathi Ellis, Tom Gottfried, Ami Helmbrecht, Brandy Herbst, Jeannette Kester, Nikki Klanderud, Monique Mendyke, Penny Messer, Rebecca Perrotti, Helen Pieper, Tim Schmutzer, Susan Siemers, Paul Smith, Kevin Stenson, Brandon Nurmi, Marcia Westover, Nate Kirkwold (guest)

**Opening of Meeting:** 10:06am

**Introductions:**

**Welcome and direction by Tim Schmutzer:**

**Approve December's Minutes:** Addition of Penny Messer in attendance. With that adjustment, minutes approval by Kevin Stenson, second by Helen Pieper. MSP

**Approve February's Agenda:** Agenda approval by Kathy Ellis, second by Jeannette Kester. MSP

**Updates from Staff:** Distribution of Work Plan. Nicki suggested drafting this in a more easily understood display utilizing the Red (not working on), Yellow (in the works), & Green (completed) called a "Stop Light" design - Rather than Red x's.

**Task Subcommittee Discussions:**

Questioned whether everyone in the room is on a subcommittee? Asked all to sign up on the sheets displayed on the wall.

### **TMCC:**

*Resource Guide* – Heather Molesworth in Region 4 went live with their Transportation Resource Guide/Directory. We will reach out to see how they did theirs and mirror details that we feel are valuable. Park and ride options are being evaluated. The current park and ride map (rough draft) was passed around for people to add to.

Survey results from Sandstone's Survey of Transportation Needs were discussed. Brandon better explained what is happening as a result of the survey. Discussion of potential Wednesday (9-5) service, deviated route, service area, etc. He will delve further at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Potential towns listed as stops: Hinckley, Finlayson, Askov, Sandstone.

We proposed that the ECRTCC utilize Kathy George's (Sandstone City Administrator) survey (she's fine with that), and modify it for Mille Lacs County/Onamia. We would like to request TriCAP to expand their 5mile radius around Onamia to 12miles. (This would get people to the grocery store and other options in Isle.)

Nate Kirkwold is Isanti county's GIS specialist. He was present at the meeting and stated that utilizing GIS for transit mapping would make complex data very visual and usable; making it more accessible. Great importance was placed on keeping all data unified and compatible, especially around the state's RTCCs. If every county's GIS tech does their own county, the same data points, fields, etc. must be utilized to combine at a later date. **Do all of the region's counties have a GIS tech? Would each county's board support dedicating staff to doing this work?**

The ARDC is (possibly) doing Pine County, so should we do it as well? Does Pine County have a GIS specialist?

### **Volunteer Driver/Centralized Training:**

Monique discussed RSVP volunteer program. They place volunteers 55 and older into partner sites that they

have memorandum of understandings with. They service 11 counties. Monique in particular serves our same 5 counties. Drivers can be occasional, one time, or ongoing.

RSVP has an enrollment form, then they provide volunteer insurance, with the driver's primary insurance stepping in first then they provide excess accident, medical, liability, automobile, etc. They will allow a driver 100 miles per month for mileage reimbursement. They pay quarterly paper or direct deposit. Drivers turn in an hours form and track mileage on there. Average reimbursement is 22-37 cents per mile.

RSVP partners with for example: the VA, Family Pathways (in the past), Roseville Community Center, - any entity that is a non-profit and has volunteer drivers.

MCOTA Discussion of Volunteer Driver Brochure "Getting There Safely" is on hold. There is not a confirmed hearing yet, but that they are hoping from one in transportation. Commerce and tax are not settled.

TRY – TRY *Transportation Resources for You* may be helped by the RDC applying for a grant to help facilitate their 501c3 status. It will make them a stand-alone entity and capable of filing for their own grants and funding.

### **Policy Action:**

Dependent on Legislation

MCOTA involvement – Tom Gottfried

The Fall Forum in 2018 had almost 200 people. A forum needs to happen again in 2020 regardless of legislation issues. There is anticipation for this one to be even larger.

Sue was the only person in attendance who went to the one in 2018.

Karen is working on the 2020 Agenda which has been discussed as including these topics: Cultural sensitivity, Disability inclusion awareness, etc. Pending location is set at St. Paul East Bank Center U. of M. Logistics are to come. Mention was made of an October or November date.

Volunteer Driver Coalition: composition (list on back of Call to Action) volunteerdrivermn.org

Volunteer Driver Coalition group was discussed. Suggested that all sign up to be a supporter of the coalition.

Volunteer driver coalition update from Tom. The major push back is coming from multiple sources. This is not a funding year, the time schedule is very tight, and it also has to go through 3 different committees (transportation, commerce, tax.)

Karen mentioned our plan for a Volunteer Driver Issue/Panel/Forum to be held at Pine County courthouse 3/31 3-5. Kathi Ellis suggested that we bring Tina Smith into the conversation of Volunteer Driving issues.

### **Transportation Exploration:**

Going to Uber greenlight 2/28 to discuss with them, their (in)activity in rural EC MN.

We are staying informed about the NLX.

### **Updates from Board:**

Helen updated on Timber Trails. Evaluating routes, etc. Volunteer driver recruitment has only had 3 applicants in their entity. She still thinks the answer is an insurance pool.

Sue made mention of **Phase 3 - Implementation**. We will be applying for grants for ongoing implementation. It will be a carry-on of phase 2 (which ends 6/30). The application is due 4/15. There is a 10% match required. Tasks will stay the same.

MCOTA:

Tom Gottfried is the new Executive Director of MCOTA.

A new Volunteer Driver Committee has been formed under MCOTA – this group is focusing on Legislation, the brochure, and the upcoming Forum in late fall.

Tom suggested moving up our next ECRTCC meeting to take place before the application is due rather than waiting until 4/23 as planned. Suggestion for 3/26.

**Next meeting:**

**March 26 or April 2, 2020 ECRDC Conference Room, 10 – noon. Doodle coming...**

*Meeting ends at 11:47 – Motion by Helen, Second by Brandy M/S/P*