

Ingham County Board of Commissioners Joint Republican and Democratic Caucus Meeting
April 24, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Crenshaw, Celentino, Grebner, Naeyaert, Hope, Maiville, Schafer, and, Anthony, Koenig (arrived at 5:30 p.m.), Sebolt (arrived at 5:48 p.m.) Louney (arrived at 5:37 p.m.) and Nolan.

Members Absent: Tennis and Banas

Others Present: Tim Daman, Steve Japinga, Kevin McKinney, Tim Dolehanty, Becky Bennett, Lindsey LaForte and others

Call to Order

Chairperson Crenshaw called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

Limited Public Comment

None.

1. CAPCOG (Capital Council of Governments)

Chairperson Crenshaw introduced Kevin McKinney, Lobbyist for Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG), and invited him to present information from CAPCOG.

Tim Daman, President and CEO of Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce, and Steve Japinga Government Relations for Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce, presented information about CAPCOG (see attachment A.)

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Anthony stated that the priorities of CAPCOG had been established a few years ago. She further stated that this would be a good time to speak up if anyone felt there should be changes made to the priorities.

Mr. Daman stated that he was confident that focusing on infrastructure and roads was right on what was important for the citizens.

Commissioner Louney arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Commissioner Nolan asked about the involvement of CAPCOG with the Red Cedar project.

Mr. Daman stated that they had recently received an update about the Red Cedar project and it would impact the Michigan Avenue corridor. He further stated that the scope of the project had changed and they wanted to know that it would be more of a broad-based, mixed-use project and not just a student area.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he was envious of the Grand Rapids area having so much construction and development happening. He further stated that the Tri-County Regional Planning Committee was an excellent group in developing this region and it was time for the region's governments to work together.

Mr. Daman stated that he was also in awe of Grand Rapids and that driving down Interstate 196 in Grand Rapids was so welcoming and that Interstate 496 in Lansing should be the same. He further stated that this group had the ability to make those needed changes.

Mr. Daman stated that his colleagues with both Lansing and Grand Rapids locations are able to fill jobs openings in Grand Rapids much faster because people want to live and work in the Grand Rapids region.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that based on her work in the Legislature, she understood how difficult it could be to get leaders in this region together to focus on regionalism. She further stated that this regional focus was a great thing.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that even representatives of rural areas, such as herself, had to agree that so goes Lansing, so goes the rest of the County. She further stated that Grand Rapids had grown but the entire region surrounding the city also grew and benefited.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the County does not want growth in every area, but the region benefited from the right kind of responsible growth, even the rural areas.

Mr. Daman stated that at night, exiting Interstate 127 at Cedar Street, the intersection was not only unappealing but also dangerous. He further stated that it was time to make those infrastructure improvements to improve the region making it welcoming and safe.

Mr. Daman stated that the last significant infrastructure improvement was Interstate 127 between Lansing and St. Johns.

Commissioner Louney stated he had been speaking with Lansing Mayor Andy Schor just before the meeting. He asked about regionalization and if joint purchasing for certain things could be utilized for increased cost-savings and efficiency.

Commissioner Grebner left the room at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Japinga stated that Mayor Schor and his team were attending the CAPCOG meetings and seemed very happy to look into regional development. He further stated that balancing the priorities of Lansing with the region was possible.

Commissioner Grebner returned to the room 5:47 p.m.

Mr. Daman stated that regionalism had been a long-term discussion. He further stated that by involving Lansing and East Lansing working with CAPCOG brought new opportunities.

Commissioner Sebolt arrived at 5:48 p.m.

Mr. Daman stated that CAPCOG did not want to get into the technical things about purchasing, but they would be supportive of governments doing so.

Commissioner Anthony stated that at a Board Leadership meeting, last year, the County was looking for ways to work with other municipalities for cost-savings and they did not have to wait for CAPCOG to help with this issue.

Commissioner Louney stated that this needed to be a priority because it had not happened.

Commissioner Maiville asked about the financial health of municipalities when looking at legacy costs and unfunded liabilities. He further stated that rules had changed to require a 100% funding of legacy costs and he wondered how that affected CAPCOG's work.

Mr. Japinga stated that CAPCOG could play a role by leading discussions about best practices for dealing with legacy costs. He further stated that the counties can lead the conversation with the municipalities on what works as well.

Mr. Japinga stated that the County had a great opportunity to bring the municipalities together to work on consolidating the District Courts to ensure cost savings across the board and in the long run. He further stated that East Lansing and Lansing were facing huge issues with legacy costs and a District Court consolidation would be a savings to both.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the Justice Complex Project had been put on the back burner for the last three years due to these legacy costs. He further stated that without the millage, this project was not possible because there was no longer room in the general fund budget for the project due to legacy costs.

Mr. Daman stated that the playing field had not been equal for local governments, especially when you looked at revenue sharing and MERS. He further stated that there were grave concerns with Lansing and East Lansing dealing with the legacy costs.

Mr. Daman stated that CAPCOG was in a position to help work on changes that may be needed from the state. He further stated that from a Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce perspective, they had been working with Lansing for years to help improve the financial health of the city and they were also working with East Lansing.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she wanted to follow up on Commissioner Maiville's question. She asked if CAPCOG had a position on legacy costs and the percentage of the unfunded costs.

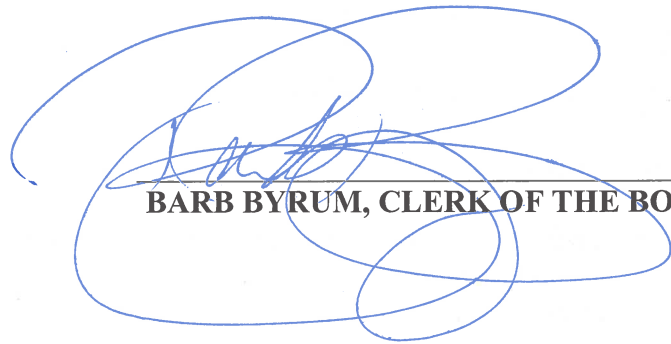
Mr. Daman stated that they had not taken a position. He further stated that CAPCOG supported some legislation last fall concerning employee retirement policy.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she was thankful for their support on the Justice Millage.

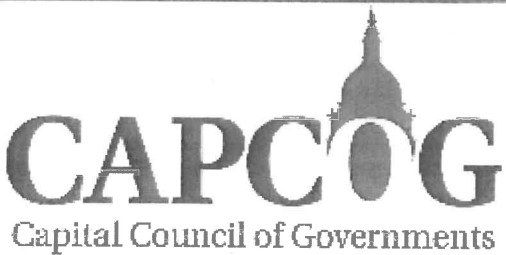
Mr. Daman stated that the Sheriff was doing amazing work and although they were not on record as being in support they looked forward to seeing the full proposal.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:01 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD



CAPCOG

Capital Council of Governments


Who We Are

The Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG) is a partnership with Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and Michigan State University.

Our Mission


The mission of CAPCOG is to work collaboratively between parties to support regional economic development and growth opportunities for the Greater Lansing region at the State Legislature.

Our Priorities




**ROBUST
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEMS**

Investing in all aspects of our logistical infrastructure including highways, bridges, waterways, transit, railways, runways and drains, which are crucial to economic growth. Ensure safe and reliable transportation to connect the Greater Lansing region's employers and employees.




**ATTRACT,
RETAIN
TALENT**

Advocate for initiatives that foster innovation, entrepreneurship, skilled trades and promote economic opportunity to attract and retain talent.



**REGULATORY
STREAMLINING**

Support initiatives that provide local units of government incentive to cooperate between each other to streamline delivery of services to avoid duplication. Work to eliminate unnecessary regulations that impede economic growth and job



**LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
FINANCIAL
HEALTH**

Support policies that assist local units of government in addressing legacy costs. A strong financial foundation is vital to the entire region.

Clinton County | Eaton County | Ingham County
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce | Michigan State University

a. Found that many regions across the state worked together to advocate for their regions at the State Legislature. – CAPCOG would be able to fill a much needed void.

b. Mix of business/government to create good hybrid

2. Mission/Goal of CAPCOG

a. The mission of CAPCOG is to work collaboratively between parties to support regional economic development and growth opportunities for the Greater Lansing region at the State Legislature.

b. Goals

i. Develop regional priorities, advocate and educate for broad regional support by working with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, LEAP, and Capital Area Michigan Works!

1. Robust Transportation Systems

2. Attract, Retain Talent

3. Regulatory Streamlining

4. Local Government Financial Health

c. Priorities

i. Infrastructure Investment

1. Looking at both short and long term infrastructure investment for our region (\$483 million lacking road funding for our region)

2. Will highlight efforts on better understanding MDOT regions/RPI Region 7. We believe we should not be part of the MDOT University Region and align our MDOT region with Regional Prosperity Zones.

3. Coleman Road Extension

4. 496/Trowbridge

5. Building stronger relationship with MDOT – Need major trunk lines to be priority for MDOT.

ii. Talent

iii. Regionalism

iv. Transit

3. Legislative Advocacy

- a. Through a transparent RFP process, CAPCOG acquire legislative consultant to assist with state legislative activities.
- b. Bring regional priorities to Capitol Caucus members – Our region has underutilized our lawmakers
- c. We have met with Capitol Caucus members
- d. Meet 6 times a year
- i. Added Mayor Schor and TCRPC Interim Director Jim Snell
- e. Regional Meeting on May 7th hosted by CAPCOG.
 - i. Invited all local municipality leaders to join us for a meeting to discuss importance of working together for the benefit of our entire region.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIESzGCp3JQ>

