WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

March 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ping at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Sizemore, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman, Judge, Peterson, and Schwartz

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Watson, Budget; Andy Brush, Support Services; Ken Schrader, ITS; Nancy Thelen, MSU Extension; Tony VanDerworp, Brett Lenart, Energy and Economic Development; Joanna Bidlack, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation
None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation
None

Discussion Items:
EECBG Technical Assistance Grant Overview – *Anthony VanDerworp*
This presentation was given by Brett Lenart (on file in County Clerk's office)

Jacob Corvidae, Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office, reported that he is moving ahead with staffing. He added that the role of his group is to provide technical assistance. He reported that $3.5 million has been secured for the regional energy office. Corvidae added that a long term plan for stable funding is also being worked out.

Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to thank the presenters. He added that this fits in with the Guiding Principle of Intergovernmental Collaboration.

Comm. Sizemore asked how the quality of work will be evaluated. Lenart reported that the creation of a comprehensive county energy policy will work to set goals and perform tracking. He added that a better job must be done on tracking.

Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to see future reporting on this issue.

Comm. Ping asked where the physical office will be located. Corvidae reported that the central office will be located in Detroit, but operations are out of offices of other groups. Comm. Ping asked if the current solar program would be tracked through this program. Lenart reported that the Chevron project is through Facilities but stated that this would be rolled in.

Comm. Prater stated that he would like the entire energy program examined and stated that he would like to see how close actual savings are to projections.

MSUE Statewide Changes – *Nancy Thelen*

MSUE Statewide Changes was presented by Nancy Thelen (on file in County Clerk's office). She introduced Frank Gublo, who will be taking the place of Mike Score. Gublo discussed some of the agricultural initiatives taking place in Washtenaw County.

Comm. Smith stated that he would like to hear about the allocation of resources on a statewide level. Thelen reported that she cannot report at this time because the State is not yet aware. He added that he would like to see equitable distribution through all districts.

Comm. Ouimet stated that it is important to know that Thelen has done an outstanding job with assistance from Verna McDaniel. He added that Thelen has done a wonderful job of keeping her board engaged. He stated that the best interests of the County have always been represented by Thelen along with staff at MSUE.

Comm. Gunn stated that she has always admired work down by Thelen. She added that she is worried about the lack of personal contact and continuity with citizens of Washtenaw County. Thelen reported that she feels that District Coordinators do feel strongly about personal relationships.

Comm. Irwin asked how much money other counties put from their general fund toward MSUE. Thelen reported that she could look into the numbers. She stated that the amount varies by County and added that she feels that Livingston is probably the lowest contributor. Comm. Irwin asked if services are provided based on contribution. Thelen reported that she is unsure at this time and added that this issue is going to be discussed. Comm. Irwin asked when the MOA will be seen. Thelen reported that she feels that these should be identified and will come forward by April. Thelen reported that it may take up to two years to put these MOA's in place. She added that every county will be different. Comm. Irwin asked how different aspects of the agreement will be worked out at different times. Thelen reported that she feels that the agreements will be worked out at the same time but that the effective time may be different. Comm. Irwin stated that there were two metrics offered to determine contribution. He stated that MSUE may look at land use as opposed to population or tax base to determine contribution. He added that this would cause the burden to fall more on urban rather than rural counties.

Comm. Ping asked if any other counties have a millage to fund MSUE. Thelen reported that there are a couple in the U.P. but none in this area. She added that Act 88 funding will be used as intended through the year. Comm. Ping stated that this body has made it a priority to keep MSUE funding in place as a priority and stated that she does not want this to get lost.

2010 Washtenaw County Planning Initiatives Update – *Verna McDaniel*

Verna McDaniel reported on the 2010 Washtenaw County Planning Initiatives Update (External Trends and Board of Commissioners Engagement Calendar (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Sizemore stated that he is pleased that these items have been brought to the Board.

Comm. Prater stated that he would like to see something on budget monitoring and tracking trends. McDaniel reported that quarterly updates will continue throughout 2010. Jennifer Watson reported that the first quarter will be available around the first regular meeting in May.

<u>County Administrator's Report</u>
None

<u>Items for Current/Future Discussion</u>
Comm. Sizemore stated that SEMCOG will get a hold of Comm. Ping to set up a Working Session.

Pending
None

Citizen Participation
None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
None

Adjournment
Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Sizemore moved that the meeting be adjourned until March 18th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

_____
Jessica Ping, Chair

_____
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: March 17, 2010