

Prosperity Index Committee  
Monday, October 10, 2016  
Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI

**DRAFT** - MINUTES – **DRAFT**

**Committee members present:** Ken Osborne; John Stephenson; Eric Bachmann; Tim Nelson; Coury Carland; Richard Schmidt; Doug Luciani; Marsha Smith; Alan Cooper; Michael Cain

**Committee members absent:** Art Jeannot; Joe Moch; Clint Steel; Jamie Al-Shamma; Doug Mansfield

**Staff present:** Denise Culman, Elaine Wood, Scott Gest

**Guests present:** Casey Cowell, Russell Schindler, Ben Munger, Kevin Benson

#### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Ken Osborne at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Framework for our Future: Growth & Investment Chapter Review**

Scott Gest, Research Analyst for Networks Northwest, gave a presentation on the data encompassed in the Growth & Investment and Corridor Studies associated with the regional prosperity plan. Considerable discussion took place, centered on the data as presented and also on the data we would like to have and believe would be even more useful to us as a region, but is not available for non-metropolitan areas. Obtaining the data would require a costly local effort. Discussion also included information about the Governor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure Commission and the potential for funding to support fiber development.

Three guests - C. Cowell, R. Schindler and B. Munger – gave an informal presentation on an initiative they are leading to get high speed fiber internet connectivity for the greater Grand Traverse area. A draft resolution of support was presented by E. Wood and committee members made several suggestions for modification of the Resolution to make it more general and usable for other fiber projects as well. The final paragraph of the draft resolution was changed to read as follows: “Therefore be it resolved that the Networks Northwest Regional Prosperity Board supports public and private efforts to advance the development of high-speed fiber internet connectivity throughout the Northwest Region of Michigan. The board also authorizes its CEO to express support for specific fiber projects within the Northwest Region, consistent with this resolution.”

Motion by R. Schmidt, supported by M. Cain to recommend board adoption of the Resolution of Support for High Speed Fiber Internet Connectivity in Northwest Michigan, as amended by the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Denise Culman*

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