

LaPorte County Logistics Task Force

LOGISTICS TASK FORCE MEETING JANUARY 14TH 2008 @ 6:00 P.M. COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Dave Christian called the meeting of Intermodal Task Force to order at 6:04 p.m. He requested everyone present to sign in to show attendance.

President Christian started the meeting with review the Task Force Member Responsibility Statement. There was concurrence of the membership to adhere to the Statement.

Member Responsibility Statement

In order to get the best talent and input into the process as well as a broad base of community interest it is recognized that members of the Task Force may have contacts with people and organizations that may have vested interests in either opposing or supporting an intermodal facility in La Porte. This does not relieve the Task Force member of their responsibility to maintain respect for each other's opinions and to work for the best outcome for the County and its citizens.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were reviewed and corrections were made to reflect the date of the last meeting and the total Task Force funds requested of \$97,000.00. Motion made by Dave Decker to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Joe Coar. Approved by all 15-0 by voice.

3. ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION/ GROUP ACTIVITES

a. Mr. Christian shared with the group that he had email communication with Cressy & Everett, the developer interested in property in our area. He stated that he shared four questions with them, and they did respond. In response to those questions he felt that the Intermodal Task Force should stay on course and further their direction in fact finding for an intermodal facility should a proposal come forth sometime in the future.

b. Commissioner Hager spoke to the Task Force to let them know that all three Commissioners had toured the Elwood intermodal facility and felt it would be a good idea for the Task Force members to tour it themselves. He spoke on behalf of the Commissioners and stated that the Commission was willing incur the expense for the members to take a bus trip to tour Elwood. He felt the Task Force would benefit from the trip and that this would prepare them for decisions later

when a proposal(s) was to be reviewed. Commissioner Hager also felt the name of the Task Force needed to be changed from LaPorte County Intermodal Task Force to LaPorte County Logistics Task Force.

c. Shaw Friedman then spoke to remind the Task Force members to stay on course and to learn as much as they can; attend seminars and find reading material. By getting as much information that is available they will be prepared for future proposals at any level, not just intermodal facilities.

d. Mr. Christian stated that Dr. Jenkins would not be able to fulfill her duties on the Task Force due to other commitments. Chancellor Dworkin from Purdue North Central was recommended to replace her seat on the Task Force.

e. Motion was made by Ken Purze to change the name of the LaPorte County Intermodal Task Force to LaPorte County Logistics Task Force. The motion was seconded by Joe Coar, all in favor, 15-0 by voice.

4. LAPORTE COUNTY LEADERSHIP INPUT

a. John Regetz from Michigan City Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) distributed a draft of the proposed itinerary for the trip to Elwood. It was mentioned that this is not the first trip that MCEDC and GLEDC have coordinated to Elwood. A general discussion was held regarding the trip and the activities. It was also mentioned that the Commissioners have already stated that they would approve funding for the trip.

b. Hugh Glasgow proposed a trip to Union Mills for the group to see the area that has been discussed as a potential location for a logistics facility. Some of the group members commented that have never thoroughly explored the area in and around the Former Kingsbury Arsenal and Union Mills. Mr. Glasgow felt it might help members to not just look at a map but actually see the land for themselves. Motion made by Dave Decker to accept the itinerary as developed by MCEDC. The motion was seconded by Ken Purze; Discussion Hugh Glasgow wanted the Task Force to ask the County Council for the money for the trip not County Commissioners. Vote passed 14 in favor 1 opposed.

5. GROUP DISCUSSION

a. Each sub-group discussed action items that occurred over the previous 2 month. All of the groups conducted some level of research and felt by touring the Elwood facility it would help to focus efforts. It was determined by the membership that each sub-group would report to the full Task Force, concerns, ideas and concepts subsequent to the tour of Elwood.

b. Don Babcock distributed copies of an article regarding the Centerpoint Intermodal Facility in Elwood. It contained information regarding the facility,

economics, transportation and other logistics information. Mr. Christian asked the members to read and study this handout in order to develop questions for the future trip to the facility.

6. TRIP TO ELWOOD

a. The trip to Elwood was voted on, and approved. It was determined that President David Christian would appear before the Commissioners at their January 15th meeting and request funds for the trip.

b. The membership had a discussion on when the bus trip would be planned. It was decided that February 20th would be convenient for the Task Force members.

c. The next scheduled meeting for the Logistics Task Force was decided on March 5th, @ 6:00 p.m. in the County Complex Meeting Room. The membership also concluded that an invitation to the leadership of Stop Intermodal Save of County would be extended an invitation to address the Task Force Membership.

d. A discussion ensued about public comment. It was pointed out that there has been no public comment permitted during the course of the Task Force meetings. The public is welcome to attend and listen, however there is no portion of the meeting allotted for public comment. Some members felt there is a need for public comment period. It was recommended to establish a public comment policy similar to manner that School Board allow. Each person must sign in prior to the meeting and a specific time allowed per speaker.

Hugh Glasgow, made a motion to allow public comment at the meetings and the motion seconded by Ruth Minich, 7 for public comment and 7 against. There was new a motion made by Ken Purze to table public comment discussion until the next scheduled meeting, so the Task Force could put together some guidelines for public comment. The motion was seconded by Dave Decker, all in favor, vote passed 15-0.

e. Matt Reardon spoke to the Task Force members to reiterate the importance of development in LaPorte County. He stated that developers are interested in LaPorte's proximity to Chicago and that if growth and jobs are pursued, companies will locate somewhere else. LaPorte has the opportunity to manage growth and shouldn't sell ourselves short about what we could offer other developers.

f. There was a discussion about the seminar held at Michigan City High School on international development and the transportation industry. Most of the members that attended felt that Mr. Gallis was a wonderful speaker and provided information needed to make informed decisions about certain aspects of economic development. Some members of the Task Force spoke about what they

Logistics Task Force Meeting

January 14, 2008

Page 4

personally got out of the seminar and it was discussed to try and get some other speakers of the same caliber to speak to the Task Force.

7. **END OF MEETING**

Motion made by Dave Decker to end meeting, seconded by Joe Coar, vote, all in favor 15-0 .