



NEWSLETTER

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TCRPC HELPS BY CONDUCTING MOCK AUDITS

The Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC), a guiding body of municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) communities in the Region, was established through the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC). They guide the implementation of the stormwater program for the communities within the Grand, Looking Glass, and Red Cedar River watersheds. GLRC members are 17 of the Region's municipalities and schools that are required to implement a stormwater management program by Federal Stormwater Regulations. In the upcoming months, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will be conducting audits of MS4 Permittee

programs. The MS4 program affects several different departments within a single community making communication key to having passing program status. To help prepare our region's MS4s, GLRC Coordinator, Erin Campbell, will conduct "mock" audits for GLRC members interested in preparing for the MDEQ audit. She will walk communities through each minimum measure required of the permit and provide valuable information about appropriate documentation methods. She will help identify records made available during an audit. She has participated in two MDEQ audits in the past. Campbell will also report the GLRC activities that all members benefit from.

TCRPC INSTALLS RAIN GARDEN ON SITE

TCRPC will install a demonstration rain garden project off the northwest corner of the office parking lot with grant funds from the Great Lakes Clean Communities Network

(GLCCN). Located near our public meeting entry, the rain garden will demonstrate the beauty of a manicured garden that also treats stormwater. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our region. All of us benefit from clean water and this rain garden will demonstrate how everyone can keep our regional water clean. Look for updates on this project in the coming months by going to www.mitcrpc.org or [Facebook.com/TriCountyPlanning](https://www.facebook.com/TriCountyPlanning).



*Example of a rain garden.
Credit: www.laurensgardenservice.com*

TCRPC INTRODUCES LAND USE PLANNER KEN HALL



TCRPC Land Use Planner Ken Hall

TCRPC is pleased to welcome our newest staff member, Land Use Planner Ken Hall.

Hall was the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Floodplain Manager for the City of Lansing where he was able to educate the importance and dangers of floodplains. With the assistance of Hazard Mitigation grants, he helped citizens of Lansing with property in floodplains. Hall specializes in Geographical Information

Systems (GIS), using geospatial data to update maps, which will be especially helpful to regional land use planning at TCRPC.

Coming from Detroit, Hall attended Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design, and Construction to earn a degree in Urban and Regional Planning. "I came to this region for school and it was the best decision I could've made," Hall said. "I love the diversity that Lansing had to offer and I feel like it provides an open door for people wanting to do different things. That is why I stayed in Lansing and began my career here."

As the new Land Use Planner for TCRPC, Hall is responsible for analyzing land use data and assisting efforts in the areas of land use, green infrastructure, sustainability, and regional growth. He is planning a summit of the Region's land use groups in the fall to explore common goals and planning needs. Look for more information about the TCRPC Land Use Program at www.mitrpc.org/lup.htm or contact Ken at khall@mitrpc.org or (517) 393-0344 x29.

TCRPC Group Outing

Lansing Lugnuts

v.

Kane County Cougars

July 25, 12:05 p.m.

Cooley Law School Stadium



Please join us! On July 25, at 12:05 p.m., the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) staff and friends will be cheering on the Lansing Lugnuts at Cooley Law School Stadium as they take on the Kane County Cougars.

To join our group, please go to <http://bit.ly/29bNlrX> to register **by July 18**. Contact TCRPC at (517) 393-0342 or reception@mitrpc.org for more information.

GLRPI GRANT PROGRAM TO STUDY TRANSIT DEMAND

It is an exciting year for the Greater Lansing Regional Prosperity Initiative (GLRPI)! TCRPC is the fiduciary and manager of the GLRPI, encouraging cross-sector collaboration and strategy development for regional economic development. The funding from the 2016 grant supports regional programs, events, and implementation strategies in our region's Prosperity Plan:

- *Implementation of the T3 Initiative: Teach, Talent, Thrive by Capital Area Michigan Works!; connecting the business community to K-12 educational workforce training.*
- *Enhancements to our region's economic prosperity dashboard www.MICapitalRegion.com.*
- *Sponsorship of the Oct. 6, 2016, Creative Placemaking*

Summit, hosted by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing.

- *Downtown revitalization pilot programs.*
- *Michigan Avenue-Grand River Avenue Corridor wayfinding and strategic planning.*
- *Support for Lansing Economic Area Partnership's youth entrepreneurship program.*

In addition to this years programming efforts, the GLRPI region-wide transit study request for proposals has been released. It will assess the economic impact of our current regional transit network (RFP information can be found at www.mitrpc.org). The recommendations from this study will be used to assess potential improvements to the accessibility and efficiency of our current transit network. To learn more about GLRPI activities, sign up at <http://bit.ly/1SUp6Ju>.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPROVED

On June 22, the Commission approved the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for fiscal years 2017-2020. The TIP is the short range capital improvements program for roads, pathways, transit and other transportation elements in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. The TIP includes descriptions of our regional transportation planning process and lists transportation projects proposed for 2017 through 2020 totaling more than \$420 million of transportation system investment in the region.

The TIP document contents are aligned with a larger vision, the region's long range plan, the Regional 2040 Transportation Plan. It is compatible with the Region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It is also aligned with Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future, a vision with development themes and principles adopted by our region's municipalities in 2004. And, it is integrated with regional sustainability and resilience planning efforts

to improve our community's sustainability through many regional plans and initiatives.

The 2017-2020 TIP was developed and adopted by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission after participation of area transportation agencies, community organizations, and the general public. TCRPC facilitated public notices, meetings, and a variety of work group and committee meetings to gain input and participation in the plan. It is a cooperative planning effort and the projects listed represent the agreed upon priorities identified by our many transportation planning partners.

Highlights of the FY 2017-2020 TIP include funding for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), major rehabilitation work on I-69 and I-496 as well as more than \$40 million of investment in the Region's local street system.

To see the TIP, go to <http://www.mitrpc.org/trp.htm>.

TRI-COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CORNER

Transportation was a reoccurring topic for TCRPC Commissioners in recent months. They invited public discussions about the next four years of federally-funded transportation projects and adjusted the current budget and work plans. They approved the fiscal year 2017 transportation planning program of work and adopted the 2017-2020 TIP, a plan that secures more than \$4.3 million in federal funds for regional roads, paths, and transit services in the Tri-County Region. In April, Liz Treutel, of Michigan Environmental Council gave the Commissioners an informative overview of the Coast-to-Coast Passenger Rail Study results. TCRPC contributed staff expertise to the study that began in 2014, with state and local support. The study offers detailed data about the options and opportunities for inter-city rail services across Michigan. In May, the Commissioners learned about bridges from Nathan Holth, of HistoricBridges.com. He shared photos, described historic bridges, and discussed reuse options, especially for non-motorized trails. The June TCRPC meeting offered a progress report on the Region's Fair and Affordable Housing Plan. Under the Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability, TCRPC compiled a wealth of data and public input to develop a plan that addresses regional housing concerns. Greater Lansing Housing Coalition Director, Julie Powers, discussed recent data and initiatives and Housing Plan progress with the Commissioners.

This spring, Commissioners discussed environmental programs and learned of new project awards. They wrote to the MDEQ expressing concerns about the Groundwater Discharge Permit (GW101339) issued for Energy-Passive Groundwater Recharge (EGRP) technology by Perjana, Inc. Groundwater is our region's only drinking water source

and the new technology, which quickly drains stormwater, could risk contaminating our groundwater by bypassing natural filtration. Michigan State University Water Institute awarded TCRPC funds to install a demonstration rain garden, a project to begin in coming months. Commissioners supported application for a renewed planning grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration; they accepted an agreement with MDOT to produce a trails map; and accepted a grant to study latent transit demand, which is matched with our Regional Prosperity Initiative.

A Fond Farewell!

TCRPC recognized long time employee Steve Skinker upon his retirement after 25 dedicated years. Steve began as a transportation planner on April 1, 1991. He grew in responsibilities to become the manager of the TIP and Rural Programs data.

Steve was a major point of contact for local roads and transit agencies as well as state and federal agencies. He witnessed our changes from hand-written project requests to web-based transmissions, from spreadsheets to databases, from cartography to GIS. He worked well with the many planners, interns, and researchers who came through TCRPC's doors over the years. The Commission thanked Steve for his service and the TCRPC staff hosted a farewell luncheon. We will miss Steve's reliable and pleasant presence and wish him all the best in his new adventures. Enjoy a happy retirement, Steve!



TCRPC Senior Transportation Planner Steve Skinker

SUE SAYS

An old cliché still rings true: “The only constant is change.” We see how fast children grow up; they change from adorable toddlers to troubled teens to innovative millennials in the blink of an eye. Our natural environment changes too, but on a much slower geologic clock. Regardless, we can look to the incremental shifts in water levels, rock formations, and tree height over time. Since it is inevitable, how can we manage change? In his theory of evolution, Darwin spoke about the ability to adapt. Adaptability is an important trait not only for survival, but for sustainability. I think the best technique for managing change is planning. The five Ps are important: “Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance!” A

great plan is well-informed with data and information. This year, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission celebrates 60 years as a resource for planning in mid-Michigan’s Tri-County region of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. TCRPC has been a constant and excellent resource for municipal planning in areas of transportation, environmental protection, land use, and economic development. At age 60 and beyond, we are proud to help manage change and enhance our region’s sustainability with well-informed planning.

Susan M.C. Pigg, CEcD, TCRPC Executive Director

The TCRPC website has new features! Weekly construction updates are on our homepage at <http://www.mitcrpc.org> to help you map out your travel. Also, TCRPC has updated the Data & Maps page at <http://www.mitcrpc.org/gis.htm>. See what new data and map examples are available!

Don't Miss These Opportunities!

Request For Proposals: TCRPC Transit Needs and Economic Prosperity Study — Submit all proposals/responses by email no later than 10:00 a.m. on Jul. 15, 2016 to: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Attn: Transit Needs and Economic Prosperity Study, 3135 Pine Tree Road, Ste. 2C, Lansing, MI 48911 or reception@mitcrpc.org

2016 Master Citizen Planner Webinar Series — Aug. 18, Oct. 20, Dec. 15 MSU Extension educators will provide an overview of topics of interest to planning and zoning officials. <http://events.anr.msu.edu/2016mcpweb>

Michigan Township Association Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning — MTA’s how-to guide and real-life practical experiences workshop series taking place at varied locations in the month of August. www.michigantownships.org

Ingham Conservation District River CleanUp Day — Sep. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at 325 City Market Drive in Lansing. <http://www.inghamconservation.com>.

The Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Annual Meeting — Aug. 23-26 in Detroit. <https://www.medaweb.org/annualmeeting>

2016 Innovate Michigan! Summit Sep. 7, 2016 — Learn, share, and create innovative economic development tools, models, policies, and programs with the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI). <http://reicenter.org/events/innovate-michigan-summit-2016>

REI is looking for new ideas — Do you have an innovative idea for a new economic development program, tool and/or policy for Michigan? If so, please submit your idea to <http://reicenter.org/projects/suggest-an-idea> by Sep. 7, to be considered at the 2016 Innovate Michigan! Summit.

Citizen Planner Training: Fundamentals of Planning & Zoning — A Web version of the course will be offered Sep. 27. If you have a community that wants or needs training but can’t support a full 20 person class, this is the option for you. With as few as 5 people you can add your site to the list and host a series. For more information or to host a site contact Janean at the Citizen Planner office. (269) 657-8213, cplanner@msu.edu.

Michigan Association of Planning Annual Conference — Oct. 26-28, 2016 at the Radisson in Kalamazoo. <http://www.planningmi.org/conference.asp>.