

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Theresa Abed, Blake Mulder, Roger Harris, Leo Farhat Jr. and Mike Hosey.

MEMBER ABSENT: Commissioner Leo Farhat.

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Sobie.

The December 3, 2009 regular meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Abed.

Commissioner Hosey moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Mulder seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hosey moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2009 regular meeting, as presented. Commissioner Harris seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson Abed and Commissioner Harris reported on the state film office's agreement to create a separate category of photography for the county. As a result of this new capability, a simple county film office web page will be created with a link to the state film office that will allow the public to submit photos directly to the state. Regarding a film initiative forum, the consensus of the Committee was to hold the forum in the Board of Commissioners chambers on either January 26, 27, or 28 in the evening with a preferred keynote speaker from the state film office and/or County Parks Director, Dan Patton. Chairperson Abed and Commissioner Harris will follow up with John Fuentes to finalize the date and time and to prepare a mailing list of invited attendees. It was also discussed that invitations be mailed no later than mid-December to ensure they are received as communication by local officials for possible inclusion in their respective meeting agendas.

There was also general discussion about designating Chairperson Abed as the initial contact for film office matters. As the contact, Chairperson Abed would refer production companies and related parties to more specific contacts in the county, such as the commissioner whose district is under consideration for a production.

Mr. Sobie reported that no new information is available regarding the broadband initiative. A general discussion developed about the project scope covered by the grant application and benefits to county residents. Mr. Sobie deferred to Mr. Fuentes and/or Board Chairperson Brehler regarding the questions.

Mr. Sobie shared copies of the Citizen University brochure and poster with committee members. Chairperson Abed recommended that additional work be done on a possible one-day format, possibly held in the fall of 2010, which focuses greater attention on county services. Mr. Sobie will provide a revised version from his original draft at the regularly scheduled meeting in January.

Mr. Sobie also provided a draft copy of an article promoting the spring 2010 Citizen University to Chairperson Abed for review and edits.

Regarding communication initiatives, Chairperson Abed ask members of the committee to identify ideas that could lead to potential articles describing county activities.

Mr. Sobie provided an e-mail project update that indicated costs are estimated to be \$95,000 to replace the existing e-mail system with a new system. Mr. Sobie stated that the Computer Fund's fund balance account will be the recommended funding source. He expects to make a formal request for funding early next year with a proposed timeline to install the new system early third quarter 2010.

Mr. Sobie updated the committee on the digital orthophotography project that Eric Daly, GIS specialist, has been working on for nearly 18 months. Consistent with a 2005 initiative, Mr. Daly coordinated the assembly of a mid-Michigan group of local governments and agencies, and secured substantial funding from the federal U.S. Geological Survey, that has resulted in significantly lower costs for each participating agency. Eaton County costs are expected to be approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Sobie also provided a handout prepared by Mr. Daly describing Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data. LiDAR is a term used to describe airborne laser profiling of the earth and the elevation measurements of above-ground features. The same mid-Michigan group, referenced earlier, has submitted a grant application to the U.S. Geological Survey with notification of approval or denial expected in the second quarter of 2010. Mr. Sobie was asked to gather additional information about other municipalities using LiDAR data and specific applications for the data in the county if it's acquired.

Mr. Sobie briefly described his current efforts to develop a social media policy providing guidance to employees about acceptable use of social media tools like Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. Mr. Sobie explained that earlier this summer a computer virus penetrated the county network because a county employee linked their county e-mail address to their personal Facebook account. The computer virus followed a path from Facebook to the county network through this e-mail link. The virus affected eight personal computers and resulted in 23 hours of county staff time to rebuild the computers. Mr. Sobie has compiled several sample policies from

other municipalities and will work with these to develop an outline and draft policy suitable for future submission and consideration by the committee.

Commissioner Hosey moved to adjourn the December 3, 2009 regular meeting at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Mulder seconded. Motion carried.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Theresa Abed', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and extends slightly to the right of the line.

Theresa Abed, Chairperson

To: Information Technology & Communication Committee
From: Eric Daley, GIS Manager
Subject: U.S. Geological Survey Program Announcement 10HQPA0014
Date: December 3, 2009

The United States Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey recently issued a grant announcement, "**U.S. Geological Survey Program Announcement 10HQPA0014**", which provides an opportunity to acquire funding for Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data for coastal watershed areas throughout the United States in 2010. LiDAR is a term used to describe an airborne laser profiling of the earth and the elevation measurements of above-ground features. LiDAR offers many advantages over traditional methods for acquiring elevation data. Here are just a few of the many LiDAR applications:

Coastal Shore Erosion Analysis/Monitoring
Watershed Analysis
Enhanced Flood Modeling
Landslide/ Slope Analysis
Slope Direction (Aspect)
Contours
Line Of Sight Analysis

Emergency Routing
Asset Management/ Monitoring
Insurance Assessment
Cut/Fill Calculations
Change Detection
Building Footprints
3-D Modeling

Representatives from Eaton County, City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) recently joined forces to pursue this rare opportunity to acquire updated elevation data for the Tri-County Region. Careful thought and consideration were put into identifying how this unique opportunity could provide positive economic growth and stability to the region. This project will also work in tandem with the recently approved 2010 Tri-County Orthophotography Acquisition Project. LiDAR would be harnessed to enhance the spatial accuracy of the orthophotography. Letters of support were received from Congressman Rogers and Congressman Schauer as well as Senator Stabenow. Other letters of support were received from MSU's Department of Geography, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), many federal and state agencies, and a wide range of support from local agencies throughout the region.

Funding opportunities like this do have positive impacts on job retention and creation in an industry that experiences variations in funding cycles. If funded, this project is known to assist in the retention of 12 jobs throughout the mid-west. Numerous spinoff projects have already been identified and will assist in the retention and creation of jobs locally within the Tri-County Region as well. The final amount requested by the group totaled \$165,628.45. Members of the group should be notified by the 2nd quarter of 2010 if efforts were successful in acquiring funding for the project.