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## Subcommittee on Community Mitigation Meeting Minutes

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**Date/Time:** November 26, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
**Members Present:** Bruce Stebbins, Chair  
Sean Cronin  
Eric Demas  
Ron Hogan  
Carmina Fernandes  
Haskell Kennedy  
John Robertson  
Patricia Gentile  
**Attendees:** John Ziemba  
Joe Delaney  
Mary Thurlow  
Ed Bedrosian  
Jill Griffin

### Call to Order

11:00 a.m. The Chair called the meeting to order and asked the members to introduce themselves.

### Approval of Minutes

11:15 a.m. *Mr. Haskell moved to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee meeting of October 2, 2019, subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters. Ms. Gentile seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Discussion of the 2020 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines

11:21 a.m. Ombudsman Ziemba provided an overview of the Community Mitigation Fund ("C.M.F.") by reviewing the draft Guidelines with the members. Public comments regarding the Guidelines were received as the period ended the previous evening. The comments are included in the Committee's Packet.

Mr. Ziemba reviewed draft spreadsheets. First, he reviewed the C.M.F.'s revenues, describing the Gross Gaming Revenue (G.G.R.) and taxes. He explained how the estimate for the year is generated.

Next, he reviewed what has been placed into the fund since its initiation. The members reviewed a chart containing the projected revenue in the C.M.F. through October 2019.

Mr. Ziembra then reviewed the revenue placed in the C.M.F. through 2019. He explained the process of using old funds vs. new funds. He summarized the multiple layers in the team's approach to reviewing grants.

Mr. Delaney clarified that with these Guidelines, the Commission is entering into the transportation-construction realm. He also noted that although there are many applications received, some are rejected due to the lack of the request being associated with a casino's existence.

The C.M.F. team recommends an 11.5M spending level for 2020. There was discussion regarding contingency funding, significant declines in revenues, actions against the licensee, and a tribal facility.

Ms. Gentile stated that the charts are beneficial and that the contingency is reasonable. She asked if the Commission invests the funds and asked what happens to the interest. Mr. Ziembra will obtain the figure for the expense from C.F.A.O. Derek Lennon to decide.

Next, Mr. Ziembra reviewed the adjustments made to the C.M.F.

There was a discussion around booking prior year revenues. Mr. Ziembra explained the benefit of using old funds first vs. using new funds first. The Commission has not finalized this yet; however there seems to be agreement amongst the committees on this.

The C.M.F. team does not know what will happen with the transportation funds for use in Western MA at this time.

Mr. Ziembra then reviewed a memorandum that contained a chart of recommendations and options for the 2019 discussion draft guidelines. He is recommending spending amounts for this upcoming year that are very similar to last year. Predominantly, the impacts have been felt in the host communities. He reviewed Specific Impact Grants, Workforce Development Pilot Program, Transportation Planning, Transportation Construction Projects, Joint Transportation Grants, the Tribal Impact Grant, and Non-Transportation Planning Grants.

The Commission would like to discuss whether the employment curve should be balanced between the regions and whether or not to escalate to the \$800,000 level. This will be addressed in a December Commission meeting.

The C.M.F. Review Team is proposing to provide funding this year for 1-year Transportation Construction projects.

It is unknown how many construction items will be necessary by June 30, 2021.

Mr. Delaney reviewed the new comment received last evening with the committee.

Mr. Ziembra discussed how the Commission will request a Statement of Interest from interested parties to gauge the projects' timing, financing, and logistics.

Next, the committee discussed the status of the pedestrian bridge. Funding was granted to design and connect it to the Assembly Row T Station. This is the one project that could be considered for future funding (long term).

Mr. Roberts noted that the letter regarding the 2020 C.M.F. dated November 12, 2019, was missing the second page. Mr. Ziembra will provide the members with a copy of the letter.

**Next Steps** The committee will meet again next year in March or April.

12:04 p.m. *With no further business, Ms. Gentile made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

/s/ Shara N. Bedard  
Secretary

### **List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated November 22, 2019
2. Draft Meeting Minutes dated October 2, 2019
3. Public Comment on Draft 2020 CMF Guidelines from the City of Chelsea dated November 6, 2019
4. Draft CMF Guidelines dated October 21, 2019
5. Public Comment on 2020 CMF Guidelines from Hampden County Sherrif dated November 21, 2019
6. Memorandum: 2020 Community Mitigation Fund Draft Guidelines