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## LCMAC Region B

**Due to Lack of Quorum, these minutes will remain in draft form.**

**Date/Time:** September 19, 2023 at 1:30 a.m.

**Place:** VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1 646 741 5292  
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 571 9722 Passcode: 0721151

**Present:** William Christofori, Springfield  
Michael Pise, Chicopee  
Tom Christensen, East Longmeadow  
Marie Brazeau, Holyoke  
Louis Kornet, Longmeadow  
Carmina Fernandes, Ludlow  
Judith Theocles, Wilbraham  
Douglas Hall, PVPC  
Ellen Patashnick, Human Service Provider

Mr. Delaney asked for a roll call to start the meeting. The vote for the Chair and Subcommittee representation was postponed until the next meeting as Mr. Sullivan was not able to attend. The meeting commenced with Mr. Delaney reviewing the policy issues regarding Community Mitigation Fund for 2023. Mr. Delaney discussed the policy questions and requested comments from members.

Question 1.: Does the Commission want the restructuring of the CMR to move forward. Carmina Fernandes asked for some clarification. Mr. Delaney described the new process as being more prescriptive on impacts, and divide funding amount with communities in Region. Mr. Delaney described the process for the application and work plan. Mr. Kornet said his community was in favor and thought this was much more efficient. There was some concern voiced over the amount of unexpended funds and the danger of not using them in a timely fashion.

Question 2.: What to do with the Hampden County lease assistance. Two years left on lease. This would fit under the set-aside program. Mr. Delaney noted possible alternatives to continuing to fund this program. Ms. Patashnick said it feels very generous to this point. She would like to go with the option of 2 years with the option of them reapplying. Bill Christofori agreed that we should give them two years to seek additional funding through the Commonwealth. Members voiced in favor of 2 years.

Question 3: The critical policy question is #3 as it impacts funding for the Workforce and Set-Aside Grants. Mr. Delaney explained that it was not expected that there would be so much available in unexpended funding. Set aside to expend remaining funds. This is one-time program until unexpended funding balanced out.. This would give more funding available for Region B. Region A in favor of keeping all funding in Region A.

Question 4: Targeting spending amount. Mr. Delaney highlighted the effort to provide flexibility as communities are of different sizes and needs. The 15% is a suggested minimum spending target for each category.

Question 5.: Mr. Delaney noted that increasing this would be impacted by the determination of set asides particularly in Region B. Members in favor of raising the amount.

Question 6. Minimum amount of grants for municipalities by region. No comments.

Questions 7: Mr. Delaney noted that some communities do not have the capacity to pay someone to administer the grants. This will provide the ability for many communities to apply for and manage their grants.

Question 8: Re-allocation of funds going before the Commission \$10,000 or 10%. Mr. Delaney noted raising the amount to \$25,000 and keep the 10%. No further comments.

Question 9: Yes, for RPA set aside. RPA's can look at broader issues and could help those that are not eligible but may have mitigation issues.

Question 10: This would give grantees more flexibility to prioritize spending specific to their municipality's needs.

Question 11: Percentage formula makes sense as communities can have issues with matching funds.

Question 12.: Does the Commission want to allow a municipality to exceed the designated grant allocation if a particular need is identified. Give communities the ability to apply a waiver. No comments

Question 13. A request was made that Staff define Operational Impacts vs. Administrative for clarity. This must supplement funding not supplant municipalities obligations.

Question 14: Identify ineligible projects or items. Does the Commission want to list ineligible projects? Community planning funds such as tourism to implement from previous grant. Allow implementation to be done. Specifying ineligible projects assists the communities in focusing their mitigation needs.

Question 15. Category 2 funds taken from Region A. Plainridge Park is in Region A. Would like to draw the funding out of Region A instead of splitting it with Region B. No comments.

Question 16. Changing from calendar year to fiscal year makes sense. Calendar year change to fiscal year. No real change except 2023 Grant to a Fiscal year 2025 Grant. No comments.

## **BLOCK GRANT FORMULA**

Mr. Delaney then went on to discuss the development of the Formula and its pertinent designations of funding. There is a single formula for all regions which is equitable. Minimum Grant amounts. He noted that Designated host and surrounding community receive a higher percentage.

Proximity to the Casino: The closer you are to the casino the more funding you should get. This addresses public safety, etc. We are going to look at these items.

Traffic Impacts a key consideration, used traffic studies to determine what direction the traffic goes to may a direct correlation. Traffic going onto a highway from the site were not included as it does not impact local roads.

Mr. Delaney highlighted that these were not final numbers but were approximate for an illustrative example. He explained the funding by Region.

Mr. Delaney then requested comments on factors considered, the amounts going to the communities.

Mr. Delaney asked for comments. He told members they can call, email, if anything pops up. Next Steps meeting tomorrow and get Commission's input.

Other steps in the process: Draft Guidelines going out for public comment. In the past we have not received many comments. Public hearing on revamp of program and we want to make sure people doing the applications attend and we would like to hear from. Mr. Delaney noted November 19<sup>th</sup> for approval by the Commission. Then send letters to communities as to their award that they need to develop a work plan for. December a series of meetings to train stakeholders.

Other Questions or comments: Jennifer Bonfiglio: I thought you did a tremendous job putting this together.

Motion to Adjourn by Jennifer Bonfiglio and seconded by Brad Hill

Mary Thurlow called a roll call to close the meeting.

Mr. Delaney thanked members for attending.

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

1. Notice and agenda for September 20, 2023 Meeting
2. 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Policy Memo
3. 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Formula

/s/ Mary Thurlow  
Secretary