



Region A - Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee Minutes

Date/Time: November 15, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

Place: MAPC, 60 Temple Place, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts

Members Present: Eric Bourassa
John DePriest
Marzie Galazica
Ron Hogan
Adam Knight
Brad Rawson
Mayra Negron-Rivera
Paul Sheehan
Alexis Tkachuk

Attendees:
Lloyd Macdonald
Bruce Stebbins
Jacquie Krum
John Tocco
Catherin Rollins Denisi
John Ziemba
Joseph Delaney
Shara Bedard

Call to Order

The Chair Richard Carviello was not available. Ron Hogan of Malden called the meeting to order and welcomed the members. He then asked members to introduce themselves for the benefit of any new member.

The Chair then asked members to approve the minutes from the October meeting. By motion made by Mr. DePriest and duly seconded by Ms. Galazica, the members unanimously approved the minutes.

Mr. DePriest moved to keep the same Chairman. Mr. Bourassa seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ziemba discussed draft of policy recommendations for inclusion in the Community Mitigation fund. He noted that the 2018 Guidelines are not a tremendous departure from last year. Neither region is facing operational impacts as of yet. The Community Mitigation Fund is in a similar situation to where we were last year. The Lower Mystic Regional Working Group is looking at transportation issues. Those recommendations will not be ready until January or February 2018.

Recommendations made to Commission for inclusion in discussion draft:

1. Limit for award granting in 2017 round as a guideline. Presents to community what we anticipate awarding to the fund. Commission did not discuss amount at that time.
 - a. By 2/1/2019 MGM will be up and operational and we will begin to have deposits into the fund in the 3rd quarter of next year. There is \$10 million remaining now, and MGM will add to that. The estimate increase in funds available is \$1 to \$2 million more from MGM for 2019 and \$6-\$7 million dollars for 2020.
 - b. \$1.5 million is anticipated from Wynn in 2020. We are using conservative revenues on this.

- c. Roughly \$10 to \$12 million is anticipated yearly that can be awarded to the fund on a yearly basis.
2. Grant types to be set, as there is a limit for grant types. Mr. Ziemba asked for feedback on the following:
- a. Recommending \$300,000 per region for the Workforce Development Pilot Programs. And takes into account carryover of grant funds and apply it to the next year.
 - b. Planning grants (transportation) increased to \$200,000
 - c. Tribal impact grant should be kept at \$200,000
 - d. New category of grant: Non-Transportation Planning Grant at \$50,000. Communities who don't have planning dollars, who have spent their full reserves, may apply for this grant. Approximately 11 or 12 out of 28 have used all of their reserves.

No comments from members/attendees on the above at this time.

3. At Commission meeting, Mr. Ziemba was asked to get public comment and discuss:
- a. Possibility of bonus grant: MGC would like to encourage further regional cooperation to keep a lid on expenses while waiting for bigger dollars to come in. Regions will be more cooperative if we offer a bonus for joint application. For example, a bonus on limit to transportation project, let's say if two regions combine their efforts and need a bonus. Mr. Bourassa asked if three communities could apply for a joint \$600,000 proposal. Mr. Ziemba replies that yes, there could be a bonus attached to that. Mr. Bourassa suggests that the cost is estimated by number of communities applying. Mr. Ziemba asserts that yes they can if they understand that there would be only one bonus. Mr. Hogan suggests a higher limit (in lieu of calling it a bonus) for more communities as long as it is justified. Mr. Ziemba notes that it could get confusing to determine who used their reserve first, etc. and asks for feedback on that.
 - b. Public safety training expenses were not allowable under the language in the Guidelines last year.

Police training needs. Licensees are responsible for paying for policing costs at the facilities. MGC charges licensee or Massachusetts State Police (MSP) once they are at the facility. What about the training cost of MSP? This year, MSP were experiencing requests for personnel and determined that they need to move forward with a class and asked for financial assistance from the agencies (MGC, Massport, etc.). How should we accommodate the need now for MSP training, as public safety is part of the fund? Mr. Sheehan asks if it is a specialized training. Mr. Ziemba replied no. Statute identifies pockets of funding for a lot of specific needs. Mr. Bourassa is asking if this is supplemental training, and Mr. Ziemba said no, it is part of their regular training class 24 week training class, take a test. Mr. DePriest is asking if this fund will pay for casino related training? Mr. Ziemba says no. It is just MSP training. Ms. Negron-Rivera asked if this is part of workforce development training. Mr. Ziemba is unsure at this time. Mr. Ziemba explains that we would be draining the MSP if we do not pay for them. This is to financially replace officers who we take from the barracks. Mr. Sheehan asks if this is like a detail. Mr. Delaney explains that the officers are fully employed by the casino and this is not a detail. Ms. Tkachuk asks if officers' rate of pay will depend on their rank. Mr. Ziemba noted that this funding focuses on training costs, which is different from salary. Mr. Hogan asks about retirement. The state has to pay for their retirement after

they work as an employee in the casino. Mr. Ziemba redirects conversation back to training costs. Mr. Ziemba specifies the cadet training program costs, floor training, etc. determines the cost to us. Bourassa asks if we can invoice casinos now, as we need it now. Mr. Ziemba confirms that this is the item on the table for consideration. Mr. Bourassa doesn't believe this is a mitigation cost. He feels that MSP should bear the cost of creating more officers, as this is not an "impact" that should be mitigated. Mr. Ziemba reminds Mr. Bourassa that the mitigation fund can be used for public safety costs.

4. Referring to item #12: Should we set a regional allocation of funding for the mitigation fund. Mr. Ziemba suggests that the Commission develop a system for when the casinos are up and running and generating tax dollars. One could base a system on what MGM and Wynn will put into the fund, but it will differ for tribal properties and slot facilities. Allocations will need to be made differently for those. If there are dollars not being utilized by a region, we can put it back into the kitty for other regions to use? The Commission should express its intent to do this.

Discussion amongst members/attendees on this topic.

5. Referring to Question 3: Let's keep same packets as last year.
6. Referring to Question 5: Report will not be done. We will not base awards on the report from last year. Mr. Berman commented that Somerville has been working with more communities than Boston, Everett, and Somerville regarding transportation projects.

Ms. Tkachuk asked about Chelsea's ban on trucks in a certain capacity. Mr. Ziemba mentions that this is not the right forum for that question.

The members then addressed Questions 7, 8, 9, 10 - No change recommended by members.

Question 13: Mr. Ziemba states that one community should be assigned for the administration of the grant.

Question 3: Mr. Ziemba addresses that there is a whole host of issues we have not been addressed regarding public safety, hiring, education, and business issues. We do have some time to address them before the casinos open.

Question 7: If you are a community applying, it should be the community and their administration making these determinations only. There are limited funds and we need to make sure these funds are coordinated accordingly.

Mr. DePriest made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:29 p.m., upon motion duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

/s/ Shara Bedard
Shara Bedard, Paralegal

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda
2. Minutes from the October 18, 2017 meeting
3. Membership of Gaming Policy Advisory Committees
4. Review of Policy Questions discussed by the Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committees and the Subcommittee on Community Mitigation Relative to the 2018 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines
5. 2018 Community Mitigation Guidelines