

**Mahoning County Land Reutilization Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes (Meeting #112)
August 22, 2023**

Board Members in Attendance:

Daniel R. Yemma, Chair
Richard Chase
Gwen Bush
Larry Moliterno
James Harp
David Ditzler

Board Members Absent:

Carol Rimedio-Righetti
Artie Spellman

Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

Anna DeAscentis (alternate for Carol Rimedio-Righetti)

MCLRC Staff in Attendance:

Debora Flora, Executive Director
Cathie Hicks, Fiscal Officer
Roger Smith, Director of Planning, Acquisition and Disposition
Steven Brown
Attorney Chris Sammarone

Prosecutor's Staff in Attendance:

Attorney Thomas Michaels

- Meeting was called to order by Daniel R. Yemma, Chairman at 11:32 am.
- Meeting was held at Mahoning County Land Bank office, 100 E. Federal St., Suite 300, Youngstown, OH.

Daniel R. Yemma called for the approval of the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes.

- Richard Chase made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2023 meeting.
- ✓ James Harp seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Communication Items None

Daniel R. Yemma called for the presentation of reports.

Debora Flora presented the Executive Director's report. Items highlighted included:

Reminder: National Land Bank Network Meeting October 2023
Reviewed potential revisions to the current Land Policies & Procedures
State Funding update – Ohio biennial budget includes \$350 million for brownfield remediation, \$150 million for residential/commercial demolition and \$150 million for workforce housing aka Welcome Home Ohio
Update on the Royal Sebring China brownfield project
Matching funds update

Communication issues with City of Youngstown regarding city demolitions
Roger Smith and Steven Brown presented some of these communication issues, which included: occupied houses; condemned houses under renovation; ownership changes; phone calls to land bank from current owners after being referred to city offices; residents wanting to save the houses from demolition; jobs being pulled or stopped after land bank has incurred costs; city not consistent in addressing citizen requests and safety concerns

Discussion followed regarding: placing demo within Youngstown on hold until issues resolved; Attorney Sammarone will contact Youngstown City legal department for meeting to try to resolve these issues; requesting police presence when available or possibly paying for auxiliary deputy to assist; board members receiving calls to save properties; inviting city mayor to land bank meeting

- Richard Chase made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report.
- ✓ David Ditzler seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Roger Smith presented the Renovation and Demolition report. Items highlighted included:

Demolition update – commercial & residential
Housing renovations update

Attorney Thomas Michaels presented the Mahoning County Prosecutor's report. Statistics were shared. No discussion.

- David Ditzler made a motion to accept the Mahoning County Prosecutor's report.
- ✓ Richard Chase seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Larry Moliterno presented the Finance Committee's report. Items highlighted included:

Monthly financial reports for board approval
Matching funds update for demo grant
State budget items
Next meeting October 24, 2023 @ 11:00 am

- James Harp made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's report.
- ✓ David Ditzler seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Committee	none
Personnel Committee	none
Planning Committee	none

Board Action

Daniel R. Yemma called for a motion to approve the resolution as presented to notify Ohio Secretary of State of corporation address change.

- Richard Chase made a motion to approve the resolution as presented to notify Ohio Secretary of State of corporation address change.
- ✓ Gwen Bush seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business

David Ditzler asked if the personnel committee needs to meet. Daniel R. Yemma stated that committees will meet as needed as MCLB approaches upcoming budget discussion.

Anna DeAscentis requested the following information on behalf of the County Commissioners:

List of all properties to be demolished with Mahoning County Commissioners Local Match for Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Project (Debora Flora to follow up)

Surplus funds for same project (Debora Flora replied no surplus funds projected)

Richard Chase suggested that the land bank collaborate with housing contractors for new home construction on vacant lots. Debora Flora replied that the new state program Welcome Home Ohio may help fill this void and that this emphasizes the need for strategic land assembly.

Anna DeAscentis asked if the land bank had been asked to join other community organizations (Mental Health Board, YNDC & Family Community Services) to discuss vacant properties available for building housing centers.

Larry Moliterno asked if the land bank had met with Jim Kinnick of Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. A partnership with this organization, which is promoting affordable housing construction and looking to create community recreation areas to attract a younger work force, seems like a good fit.

Unfinished Business none

Members Comments

James Harp thanked the land bank staff for all their hard work managing the demolition programs.

Members observed a moment of silence to recognize the passing of former board member J. Michael Pinkerton in acknowledgement of all that he did for the land bank.

- Richard Chase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 pm.
- ✓ Larry Moliterno seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes submitted by Cathie Hicks, Fiscal Officer, MCLRC