

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE

EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Meeting date: Friday, July 10, 2015

12:00 P.M.

Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency
(RESA)

27 N. Rempert Rd.

Tawas City, MI

989-756-4803

www.ioscoresa.net

Approved September 11, 2015

Attendees:

RED Team:

Bob Balzer, Mandi Chasey, Zygy Dworzecki, Garret Geer, Christine Greve, Clint Holmes, Pat Killingbeck, Kathy Methner, Robert Moffit, William Mrdeza, Rosalie Myers, Jay O'Farrell, William Rhode, Carol Wetzel

EMCOG:

Dave Engelhardt, Jane Fitzpatrick

Guests:

Rex Anslie, MDNR, Brenda Bachelder, Arenac County ED/MichiganWorks!, Blinda Baker, City of East Tawas, Cherrie Benchley, Saginaw County United Way, Maja Bolanowska, Midland County MPO, Abby Ertel, Huron Pines, Jacob Hilliker, Congressional Liaison for Congressman Dan Kildee, Katy Hintzen, Michigan Sea Grant, Trevor Keyes, Bay Future, Inc., Sarah Kile, 211 NE Michigan, Dana McGrew, Iosco RESA, Phyllis Rhodes, Iosco RESA Great Start

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by the RED Team Chair, Kathy Methner; attendees introduced themselves. The meeting host, Dana McGrew, Superintendent of the Iosco RESA gave an overview of the facility and programs. He will be conducting a tour after the meeting for those who are interested.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

3. Review and Approval of May 1, 2015 RED Team Minutes

Zyggy Dworzecki made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted, support by Bob Moffitt, the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Chairperson Updates: Kathy Methner

The Chair discussed changes to the RED Team meeting start time. For this meeting the time has been moved up to 12:00 pm in order for the RED Team to cover all that needs to be covered at a meeting and adjourn a bit earlier. Beginning with the September 11th meeting the plan is for the Council meeting to adjourn by 11:30 am at which point lunch will be brought in and the RED Team meeting will begin at 11:45 am as a working lunch meeting.

5. Updates from EMCOG:

5.a. Citizen Planner (MSU Extension)

Jane Fitzpatrick provided a brief summary of the Citizen Planner classes that will be offered at two locations (Caro and Mt Pleasant) within the EMCOG Region in September. Further details were provided in her July 10, 2015 Report to the RED Team which was distributed to the RED Team at this time.

5.b. Target Market Analysis (MSHDA Grant)

Jane Fitzpatrick provided a brief summary of the status of the grant application which covers the eight (8) counties within Prosperity Region 5. Further details were provided in her July 10, 2015 Report to the RED Team which was distributed to the RED Team at this time.

5.c. Rural Transit Mobility

Dave Engelhardt provided a status report of the United Way funded study that is being done in response to a Governor's initiative. The Governor's Office has reached out to the regions to assist with this study. The council of governments were asked to do the original inventory of transit/mobility providers for each region. Initial findings from EMCOG indicate that there are a variety of transit options out there. The KFH Group will be doing the study for MDOT. Meetings will be set up within each prosperity region within the next couple of months. Outreach for this project is not just to transit authorities; we are also looking at other entities that provide transit/mobility services such as Veterans Affairs, health care services, etc. Dave asked the group to let him know of anyone they are aware of that is in the mobility business.

5.d. Saginaw Bay Watershed Coastal Storms Project (MI Sea Grant)

EMCOG is collaborating with the Michigan Sea Grant, MSU Extension on a project to assess preparedness and resiliency relating to extreme storm hazards in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Katy Hintzen, project manager gave an update of the project to date. She has held a couple of steering committee meetings (Jane Fitzpatrick is a member of this committee) and is planning to roll out the assessment survey this fall (September – October).

5.e. ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) Update

Jane Fitzpatrick gave a brief summary of the Empowering ALICE Summit that EMCOG collaborated with United Way of Michigan and Saginaw County to hold at SVSU on June 15th. She facilitated the wrap up session and discussion of next steps. Cherrie Benchley, Executive Director of the Saginaw County United Way also included comments for the RED Team. Further details were provided in Jane's July 10, 2015 Report to the RED Team which was distributed to the RED team at this time.

6. Guest Speaker: Sarah Kile, Executive Director, Northeast Michigan 211

Sara Kile provided handouts illustrating types of data she tracks for the Northeast Michigan 211. The data demonstrates both met and unmet needs. This data can be used for grant application purposes as demonstration of needs. There was a lot of discussion regarding the information that 211 has plus the service levels and costs region-wide and statewide. Further information can be found at www.211nemichigan.org

7. Guest Speaker: Abigail Ertel, Huron Pines: Update/status report of the Rifle River Prosperity Network project including the mini-grant program.

Abigail Ertel gave a presentation of the Rifle River Prosperity Network project in Ogemaw County. A part of this project is to focus on the economic impacts resulting from natural resource related tourism. A copy of the powerpoint presentation will be distributed to the RED Team. EMCOG (Jane Fitzpatrick) is participating in this project as a member of the project steering committee.

8. Other: Parking Lot Items

(Discussion items requested by RED Team members and/or guests during the meeting)

No additional items were added for discussion.

9. Updates from RED Team Members and Guests (note: many gave an update during the Council meeting)

Rex Anslie, MDNR

Rex reiterated that Abigail Ertel stated the Department of Natural Resources goals quite well. Marc Miller, MDNR Regional Initiatives Deputy will be at the September 11th Council meeting to discuss MDNR initiatives. Rex is available to the region as a resource.

Jacob Hilliker, Congressional Liaison for Congressman Dan Kildee

Jacob introduced himself and distributed contact information and noted that if anyone needs letters of support to contact his office (810-238-8627)

Blinda Baker, Manager, City of East Tawas

Blinda is the new City Manager for the City of East Tawas and has been on the job for three days now.

Jay O'Farrell, Iosco County Commissioner

Kalitta Air is opening a new hanger very soon; perhaps July 16th. This has a major positive economic impact for Iosco County due to the world-wide draw for jet engine repair. Kalitta Air built the hanger without federal or state dollars as the demand for additional space would not allow for a wait to secure any funding assistance.

Pat Killingbeck, Arenac County EDC Board

Mentioned the Wine and Hops Tour. Also Modern Craft Winery has moved their tasting room into the City of Au Gres.

Bob Balzer, Gladwin County EDC and Michigan Works!

Broadband: currently mapping vertical assets and working with townships to see what are in the ordinances regarding broadband in order to coordinate throughout the county. The second ORV Poker Run (90 miles) will take place on August 15th. Bob will be facilitating the upcoming Co-Starters program at the Kirtland Community College campus in West Branch

Bob Moffit, City of Gladwin

He is working on the bicycle path project and has also worked with Sarah Kile on a health grant.

Rosalie Myers, Roscommon County EDC

The next Booster Business Series event will be on September 10th with a focus on cyber security. Co-starters will be held in Roscommon County next year.

Mandi Chasey, Ogemaw County EDC and Michigan Works!

There is a severe shortage of day care providers with only 14 licensed providers countywide. The county zoning permit fee is \$400; Mandi has been working with some of the County Commissioners to see if it is possible to split this cost to make it more affordable. Ogemaw County is in the process of conducting a broadband vertical asset inventory. Mandi is currently covering Iosco County Michigan Works! In addition to Ogemaw County.

Bill Mrdeza, City of Mt Pleasant

The city was awarded \$250,000 from the Michigan Land Bank for demolition projects. Bill is working on obtaining City Commission approval to rewrite their 31 year old zoning ordinance; will be signing an agreement within the next week regarding redevelopment of the property next to city hall. The CMU Marriot Hotel is under construction; it will be taxable; the city is providing an access road as an incentive for this project. The City

Commission passed a complete streets ordinance; the joint city/union Township/grass roots organization has raised \$117,000 to create a community dog park which will open later this month; the city is eliminating the two remaining one-way streets which should be back to two-way streets by the end of August. The new president of Middle Michigan development Corporation is Jim McBryde.

Katy Hintzen, Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Sea grant is working on strategic planning for small harbor sites including the City of Au Gres. Workshops are scheduled for September 24th – 26th

Trevor Keys, Bay Future, Inc.

They have a few projects in the works; also the CDC Region 5 Collaborative cluster analysis project was just finished up and will be a great tool for moving forward.

Brenda Bachelder, Michigan Works!

Brenda is the new EDC liaison for Arenac County

Zyggy Dworkzecki, Tuscola County Planning Commission

The development of a food hub is in progress as is are the planning stages for an organic food processing and packaging center. Redevelopment in downtown Vassar is underway with the selling of Betty's Restaurant. There is a new culinary school in downtown Caro. A plan is being developed for an incubator/craft food kitchen in the City of Caro.; also working to restore an historical building in Cass City to become the Cultural Center of the Arts in the Thumb Area.

Kathy Methner, Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Michigan Works!

Isabella County and the Isabella County Road Commission are working to pave a roadway to Bandit Industries. The Downtown Harrison project has gone out for bid and will begin construction around August 1st. The project will include a community kitchen, a four season market and a retail incubator.

10. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the RED Team the meeting was declared adjourned at 1:55 pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2015 at 11:45 am (Note time change)

2015 **RED TEAM** MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TIME	LOCATION
January 16, 2015	12:30 pm	The Bancroft, Saginaw
March 6, 2015	12:30 pm	Room 317, City Hall, Bay City
May 1, 2015	12:30 pm	Riverwalk Place, Gladwin
July 10, 2015	Noon	Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
September 11, 2015	11:45 am	Houghton Lake Library
November 6, 2015	11:45 am	Tuscola County (specific site TBD)

Beginning September 11, 2015 RED Team meetings begin at 11:45 AM following 10:00 AM Full Council meetings. Lunch will be available at the meeting site upon adjournment of the Council meeting at 11:30 AM for those who wish to participate prior to the start of the RED Team meeting. The lunch cost is \$10.00 per person unless otherwise specified for a particular meeting.

NOTE: Members of the public are always welcome at any EMCOG RED Team meeting.

Meeting Guidelines

- * Participate in good faith, and in an effort to promote collective learning and good communication
- * Be honest, open-minded, and respectful when offering and listening to differing points of view. Disagree judiciously and respectfully.
- * Respect time commitments in the agenda, maintain focus on the issues and objectives at hand.
- * Be mindful of comment length and the importance of encouraging participation from everyone in the group. Agree briefly.
- * Be respectful regarding use of smart phones and other technologies.