

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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East Central Michigan Prosperity Region 5

Strategic Management Team Meeting

July 28, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m

CMURC

2625 Denison Drive

Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

MINUTES

Stakeholders Present:

Natasha Allen	Region 7B Michigan Works	Workforce Development
Karre Ballard	Adult Education and Literacy, ETC	Education/Workforce Dev.
Maja Bolanowska	Midland Area Transportation Study	MPO/Transportation
Jennifer Carroll	Director of Corp Services, Delta CC	Higher Education (telephone)
Roger Coles	Interim Associate Assistant Provost, CMU	Higher Education
JoAnn Crary	CEO/Saginaw Future, Inc.	Economic Development
Dave Emmel	Disability Network of Mid Michigan	Transit/Transp/Workforce
Scott Govitz	Director, M-TEC, MMDC	Higher Education
Ken Hibl	Manager, City of Clare	Local Government
Don Schurr	President, Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.	Economic Development
Erin Strang	CMURC	Higher Education

State Agencies/Departments

Nate Scramlin	CAT Specialist	MEDC
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Guests:

Edith Wiarda	Director of Research Services	MMTC
Matt Schoffner	Assistant Director	MMTC-NE at SVSU

EMCOG:

Dave Engelhardt	Rural Task Force/TLAG
Jane Fitzpatrick	Program Manager – Economic Development/RPI Project Coordinator

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. The Committee thanked Erin Strang , CMURC, for hosting this meeting. Each member introduced themselves and identified the entity they represent.

Jane Fitzpatrick noted the loss of members on the Strategic Management Team membership due to the retirement of Harry Leaver (SVSU) and Patti Stowell (City of Bay City) as well as the addition of new members: Roger Coles, Interim Associate Vice Provost, Community Outreach, CMU and David M Callejo Perez, Associate Provost, SVSU.

2. EMCOG Update:

a. Center of Excellence Action Strategy – Jane Fitzpatrick

The project is underway with initial meetings with TIP Strategies, Inc on June 9th through June 11th. The meetings included the first meeting with the Task Force, a meeting of college and university presidents that was convened by Dr. Hammond of MMCC, the Arenac County EDC (part of a broader meeting of the EDC) and the MEDC CDC Region 5 Collaborative.

There will be a teleconference meeting of the Task Force and TIP Strategies, Inc on August 11th. The task force has been expanded to include representation from MMCC, CMU, SVSU, Delta College, Mid Michigan Health, Vantage Plastics, and the MEDC CDC Region 5 Collaborative (JoAnn Cray). Others have been invited to participate. The group will be kept to a small number of action oriented individuals.

TIP Strategies, Inc. will be here again on September 17th and 18th for one on one meetings and a meeting of the Task Force.

b. RPI 5 Target Market Analysis (TMA) – Jane Fitzpatrick

EMCOG submitted the grant application to MSHDA and is waiting on confirmation of the grant award as well as letters of commitment from a few of the participants. The start up is anticipated to be around October 1st. per MSHDA the time frame for completion of the study is around nine (9) months.

c. Regional Transit Mobility – Dave Engelhardt

KHF Group will be doing the study statewide which will incorporate a plan for each region. Work sessions will be scheduled and the estimated time for plan completion is December of 2015. Jane Fitzpatrick will distribute the list of current contacts for providers that EMCOG has compiled for review by the Strategic Management team to provide any further information. Private sector providers should be included as well as public sector providers. Karre Ballard noted the upcoming mass transit conference which is being held in Frankenmuth.

3. RPI-5 2016 Grant Application: Group Discussion

The 2016 grant application is due November 1, 2015. EMCOG is anticipating that the 2016 funding level for RPI-5 will be less than for 2015 due to more regions participating. There has been no change in the eligible applicants for funding for 2016. The grant application will prioritize projects for funding to allow for various funding levels.

The group discussed a number of options for projects to be funding for 2016 including:

Aiding the 8 county marketing and branding campaign already underway on the EDC front. The RPI-5 Strategic Management Team could help to pull in talking points from the RPI-5 Strategy and TIP Strategies, Inc., workforce data, etc. as it would be helpful to have a unified front with the same information when marketing our region. Perhaps a single website with workforce, communities, business, etc. JoAnn Crary will bring samples to the next meeting;

Focus on retention and sustainability of the pipeline for workforce;

Central point in our region for logistics distribution and collection; development of the Saginaw River as a logistics point.

Further discussion will take place at the next meeting on August 25th.

GLBR Industry Cluster Analysis (Region = the 8 county RPI-5):

Edith Wiarda, Director of Research Services for Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center gave a power-point presentation of the study that was recently completed for the MEDC CDC Region 5 Collaborative (a copy of the power-point has been distributed to the Strategic Management Team). Matt Schoffner of the MMTC-NE at SVSU was also present to answer questions.

Highlights of the presentation include: there are significant opportunities in our region for joining of dissimilar materials; our region has the capabilities to offer this need as identified by the auto industry; the study focused on establishment counts rather than employee counts and which NAICS codes tended to group together (per Michael Porter Analyses). Indications are that manufacturers are buying high value components from elsewhere outside of the region.

Survey interviews were completed for 40 of the 400 companies identified. It was suggested that we continue to interview companies utilizing the survey questions from the study, noting that manpower and time for this may be lacking. Regarding the question of capability of tracking how many companies get supplies outside of our region, MMTC stated that it would be difficult to track but we could look at regional, state or national trends. Further discussion evolved around MMTC receipt of MEDC funding to help companies find local distributors; talent attraction including the issue of wages. It was suggested that the region draw attention to quality of life and community as strong regional assets to offset the wage discussions.

5. Other: Parking Lot items:

No items were discussed

6. Updates from Strategic Management Team Members and Guests

Ken Hibl, City of Clare

The City of Clare, along with two other cities will soon have 1 GB internet access provided by WIN Telecom. Thirty-two (32) out of the sixty (60) acre industrial park in Clare will have access to the 1 GB. Also eight (8) storefront facades in Clare will be redone through MEDC funding.

There being no other business to come before the group, the meeting concluded at 11:55. The next meeting will be August 25, 2015 at the Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works office in Midland.

Jane Fitzpatrick - EMCOG (with assistance from Natasha Allen – MichiganWorks, Region 7B)
August 24, 2015