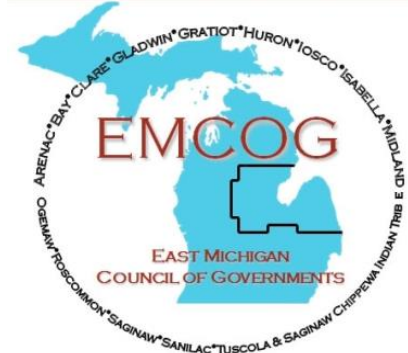


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM Approved May 6, 2016

Meeting Date: Friday, March 4, 2016

Meeting Time: **11:45 A.M.**

Location: Houghton Lake Public Library

Address: 4431 W Houghton Lake Dr. | Houghton Lake, MI 48629

Attendees:

RED Team: Erine Adams, Brenda Bachelder, Bob Balzer, Tracy Byard, Mandi Chasey, Zyggy Dworzecki, Tony Fox, Kathy Methner, Rosalie Myers, Jay O'Farrell, Erik Rodriquez, Kasey Zehner

EMCOG: Dave Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick

Guests: Kristy Aikens, USDA Rural, Duane Berger, State of Michigan, Diane Randall, Roscommon Township, Brian Smith (Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe)

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions

The RED Team was called to order at 11:55 a.m. by Chair Kathy Methner; attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Jane Fitzpatrick requested an addition to the agenda of new item 5.h.; a report of RED Team accomplishments during 2015. The agenda was approved as amended.

3. Review and Approval of January 22, 2016 RED Team Minutes

The draft minutes of the January 22, 2016 RED Team meeting were approved with no changes.

4. Chairperson Updates: Kathy Methner

Kathy discussed the MSU Extension programs in our communities and the importance of supporting them.

5. Updates from EMCOG:

5.a. EDA Peer Review: Jane Fitzpatrick

EDA conducted their 3-year Peer Review with EMCOG at our offices on February 9th. Kathy Methner, Lee Shirey, EDA Michigan Rep., other EDA Chicago staff, a regional director from Ohio, Bill Ernat, Sue Fortune and Jane Fitzpatrick participated. EDA had not reviewed our

new January, 2016 CEDS so time was spent discussing the process for its development. Also much time was spent discussion the RED Team engagement and coordination with the RPI regions. Jane will be attending the EDA National conference in Washington DC in April.

5.b RPI 2016 Grant Status: Jane Fitzpatrick

EMCOG was funded at \$115,000 out of \$250,000 application. The grant includes some discretionary funding (\$15.0K) for projects for local match as opportunities or assignments from the state come down to the region. The grant allows for a study to be done by SVSU on measurement and quantifying workforce talent in the region; combination of workforce, college graduates, HS graduates, certification programs, etc. This study can be expanded to encompass the entire EMCOG Region and is one of the action items in the EMCOG 5-Year CEDS.

5.c. Target Market Analysis (MSHDA Grant): Jane Fitzpatrick

For RPI-5 the kick-off meetings were held on Tuesday, February 2nd in Saginaw. The Steering Committee meeting was at 10:30 a.m. followed by the TMS Tutorial for a broader audience at 12:30 p.m. The focus areas for the study includes all 8 counties and 16 focus study areas within the counties. LandUse|USA is the consulting firm. Sharon Woods of LandUse|USA is a MSHDA certified TMA consultant. Sharon will be contacting the participants directly during February and March to arrange tours of the counties and focus areas. There are no additional meetings scheduled at this time but we should have more information in March.

5.d. Rural Transit Mobility: Dave Engelhardt

This project has been ongoing for almost a year to develop regional comprehensive transit plans done by RPI region. The PR-5 draft should be out by the end of the month. The consultants, KFH Group, are coming to the PR-5 meeting in March for review and comment on the plan. For tour 8 county region there aren't a lot of specific targets other than the need more coordination. EMCOG will need to convene a meeting of the county transit agencies within PR-5 to see if they want to collaborate. This should happen in the next 6 months. If the feedback is positive, according to MDOT there are some rural transit planning funds to move that process forward.

5.e. Saginaw Bay Watershed Coastal Storms Project (MI Sea Grant): Jane Fitzpatrick

Katy Hintzen has done a preliminary summation of the survey results. The Steering Committee, of which Jane is a member, tried to meet two times over the past two weeks but storm events prevented this so another meeting time will be set soon to determine potential project ideas and next steps based on survey results.

5.f. Hazardous Mitigation Plans: Bill Ernat

Bill gave a brief overview of the report that was provided as a handout. For further information contact Bill at bernat@emcog.org

5.g. Iron-Belle Trail Facilitation: Dave Engelhardt

MDNR is asking that each region act as the facilitator for the Iron Belle Trail development within their region. EMCOG is putting together a strategy to submit to MDNR for this to start on March of 2016. The Iron Belle Trail will go through four (4) counties within the EMCOG Region: Arenac, Bay, Saginaw and Tuscola.

5.h. RED Team Accomplishments in 2015: Jane Fitzpatrick

Jane provided a handout of accomplishments of the RED Team during 2015 including participation in the development of the new 5-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She extended thanks to them for their engagement and outreach which enhances furthers what EMCOG does. The summary document can be found at www.emcog.org or via email upon request to jfitzpatrick@emcog.org

6. Resource Retention Network – Providing Stronger Workforce: Duane Berger, State of MI

The Purpose of a Resource Retention Network (RRN) is to stabilize individual to enhance companies and communities. Mr. Duane Berger spoke about what an RRN can be; how it can be established and provided best practice examples. A handout of his presentation is attached to the minutes. Duane, along with Jane Fitzpatrick have held meetings throughout the region with interested manufacturers, Chambers of Commerce and economic development corporations to discuss the feasibility of establishing an RRN and has offered to meet with anyone who is interested. Kathy Methner has been integral in facilitating interest in Clare County.

7. Other: Parking Lot Items

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

No additional items were added for discussion.

8. Updates from RED Team Members and Guests

Zyggy Dworzecki, Tuscola County

Zyggy provided handouts for upcoming public workshops on Phragmites that will be held at the Au Gres High School (March 3rd, 6 pm), Bay City State Recreation Area (April 7th, 6 pm); Chippewa Nature Center in Midland (March 16th, 6:30 pm); and Tuscola Technology Center (March 10th, 6 pm). For further information contact Katy Hintzen at 989-891-7198

Rosalie Myers, Roscommon County EDC

Rosalie distributed maps of the new Houghton Lake Blue Water Trail. Information can be found at www.visithoughtonlake.com.

Tony Fox, SBDC MMCC

Tony distributed handouts regarding a workshop the SBDC is hosting at Mid Michigan Community College. The workshop is “How to Buy and Sell a Business and will be held on April 28, 2016 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. More information can be found at www.SBDCMichigan.org

Bill Mrdeza, City of Mt Pleasant

The City of Mt Pleasant will be making a presentation on development of non-conforming use property at the Small Town and Rural Development Conference in April. Mt Pleasant is also working on the Ann Arbor to Traverse City passenger rail project regarding whether or not it is feasible to develop along existing lines. The city planner has developed a citizens academy program which can serve as a feeder for future appointed and elected officials. There are conversations underway with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe/Union Township/CMU and Mt Pleasant to measure interest in creating an airport authority for the current airport which is

owned by the City and located in Union Township. The city is also re-writing its zoning ordinance. On March 24th MAP is conducting a Community Engagement workshop in Mt Pleasant.

Bob Balzer, Gladwin County EDC and Michigan Works!

The GLB Region 5 MEDC Collaborative group is working together on business attraction efforts as a 3 year effort. Bob is working with realtors to get properties listed on then GLB site. To get Gladwin on the map. They just completed mock interview days at MMCC Mt Pleasant Campus; Bob Moffit and Kathy Methner participated. Bob is wrapping up the skilled trades training funds. Gladwin County has not had Junior Achievement programs for a number of years and is doing what they can to get in front of kids regarding the STEM initiative.

Kristy Aikens, USDA Rural

The rural development funding level is good. If you have anyone interested in the low income housing program please send them her way.

Diane Randall, Roscommon Township

Diane thanked the group for the invitation to attend the meeting. She is the Vice President of the Michigan Townships Association.

Kathy Methner, Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Michigan Works!

The Clare Chamber has submitted a grant to USDA for the first year of funding of a Resource Retention Network. The Downtown Harrison City Market project is under construction. They are interviewing applicants for the city market master position and the incubator manager. The project will be completed by mid-July or August. Kathy, Tracy Bbeadle and Tom Stephenson met with MEDC to ask to begin to promote gigabytes communities: Clare, Mt Pleasant and Harrison.

9. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the RED Team the meeting was declared adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 6, 2016 at 11:45 a.m. Riverwalk Place, City of Gladwin

2016 RED TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TIME	LOCATION
January 22, 2016	11:45 am	Buena Vista Charter Twp.
March 4, 2016	11:45 am	Houghton Lake Public Library
May 6, 2016	11:45 am	Riverwalk Place, Gladwin
July 8, 2016	11:45 am	Iosco County RESA
September 9, 2016	11:45 am	MMDC in Mt Pleasant
November 4, 2016	11:45 am	Tuscola County EDC in Caro

RED Team meetings begin at 11:45 a.m. following 10:00 a.m. Full Council meetings. Lunch will be available at the meeting site upon adjournment of the Council meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. 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.