

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

3144 DAVENPORT AVENUE, SUITE 200, SAGINAW, MI. 48602
PHONE: 989-797-0800, FAX: 989-797-0896
WWW.EMCOG.ORG



MINUTES OF THE EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Meeting date: Friday, March 6, 2015

12:30 p.m.

Bay City City Hall, Room 317
301 Washington Ave
Bay City, MI

Attendees:

RED Team: Erine Adams, Bob Balzer, Mandi Chasey, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Garret Geer, Christine Greve, Curt Hillman, Mark Hitchcock, Steve Jonas, Pat Killingbeck, Adam Kroczaleski, Kathy Methner, Robert Moffit, Bill Mrdeza, Rosalie Myers, Jay O'Farrell, Ron Quackenbush, Patti Stowell, Carol Wetzel

EMCOG: David Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick

Guests: Frank Cloutier, Public Relations Director, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Beth Ernat, Executive Director, City of Saginaw DDA, Paula Gromak, Area Director of USDA-Rural, Lisa Hadden, Executive Director, Mid-Michigan Regional Center AHEC, Shelley McGeathy, Executive Director, , Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market, Chris Shannon, Mayor, City of Bay City, Frank Starkweather, President, Saginaw Bay Water Trail Alliance

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by the RED Team Chair, Kathy Methner

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

3. Review and Approval of January 16, 2015 RED Team Minutes

The draft minutes were approved with no changes.

4. Chairperson Updates: Kathy Methner

The chair noted that she will hold off on her comments until the end of the agenda.

At this time introductions were made. Jane Fitzpatrick noted that since the January 16th meeting the following have become official members of the RED Team:

Erine Adams; Kirtland CC, Michigan Works Region 7B;
George Bailey, Gratiot County Commissioner;
Bill Bohlen, Village of Roscommon Manager (note: has since taken a job with the City of Bay City and therefore resigned from the RED Team);
Tony Fox, Regional Director, Mid Michigan SBDC
Christine Greve, Regional Director, Delta College SBDC
Adam Kroczaleski, Arenac County Commissioner; and
Gary Stefanko, Roscommon County Commissioner

5. Updates from EMCOG:

5.a. RPI Update: Jane Fitzpatrick

EMCOG received \$221,500 for continuation of the RPI-5 Collaborative and implementation of some strategies including a contract with TIP Strategies, Inc to conduct a Center of Excellence feasibility and analysis and implementation guide. The consultants will also be conducting a regional workforce analysis to identify specific strengths and weaknesses in key skill sets. EMCOG will also be facilitating regional transportation planning and assessments per the Governor' initiative on transit. A status report of the project was distributed.

5.b. SPROUT Lab Initiative Update

Julie Cowie provided an update for the RED Team via email. Three members of the RED Team are participating: Bob Balzer, Garrett Geer and Mark Hitchcock. The 9 day sessions will begin at around April 16th. The venue for these sessions may be moved from Bay City to Standish.

6. Overview of Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) revised Guidelines for CEDS Contents

Jane Fitzpatrick gave an overview of the Federal Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) regulatory revisions for CEDS contents (final rule took effect on January 20, 2015). A 7 page summary outline was sent to the RED Team prior to the meeting. Much of the required areas are already included in the recently developed prosperity plans for regions 3, 5 and 8. Jane will be compiling a comparison document for the RED Team to utilize as a resource for development of the new CEDS. Economic

Resiliency is one of the five required sections for the new CEDS. This relates to both economic shocks to the region and natural/man-made disasters for which EMCOG is involved in hazardous plan updates within the region. EMCOG staff will be meeting with the project manager for a grant project that will soon start up within the region focusing on coastal hazards, preparedness and resilient communities including the development of a Resilient Communities Guidebook based on the results of a regional assessment.

7. Presentation of Downtown Saginaw Project: SVRC Industries and Downtown Saginaw

Farmers' Market Partnership: Beth Ernat, Executive Director, City of Saginaw Downtown Development Authority and Shelley McGeathy, Executive Director, Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market.

Beth Ernat provides some background information for this project: In 2010 the number two priority in the Saginaw DDA TIF plan was the relocation of the Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market (DSFM). <http://www.saginawfarmersmarket.org/>

SVRC (Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center) Industries, Inc. has been operating in Saginaw for over 50 years. Their focus has been moving toward food service and an agricultural realm which led to conversations with the DDA and DSFM. <http://svrcindustries.com/>

There was a 100,000 square foot building in downtown Saginaw that has been vacant for a little over six years. This building was purchased by a speculative buyer with no real interest in the building. The DDA had a relationship with the property owner; the SVRC had the money to purchase the building and the DSFM had the desire for a permanent location near their current operations (tents on property that was not designated as a permanent location).

The building is 4 stories. The first floor will be a regional food hub center (co-packing, value added processing, bottle and wash packing; culinary arts institute; rentable kitchen space; permanent retailers space for up to a 6 day per week operation. There will be 3-4 kitchens available at a time (a food truck business without the truck). The second floor is planned to be a full business incubator for which they have a tenant. The third floor will be occupied by the SVRC as their executive/administrative office space and also a ballroom conference center.

Shelly McGeathy spoke about the DSFM and the services that it provides including operating 4 days per week beginning in May through October with over 50 vendors. The DSFM accepts the Michigan Bridge Card, , WIC Project FRESH and Market FRESH coupons and the Double Up Food Bucks which allow people to double their Bridge Card money up to \$20 each day the market is open (i.e. up to \$80 per week) to buy Michigan-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Handouts of artist renderings of the project and an information brochure for the DSFM were provided to the attendees.

RED Team discussion followed regarding the development and the services it will be providing. Other local governments present expressed an interest in following the progress of this development as a model for their own communities for economic development and place-making.

8. Presentation of Regional Programs: Lisa Hadden, Executive Director of Mid-Central Regional Center/ Michigan Area Health Education Center, CMU College of Medicine

Lisa Hadden provided a presentation of the Mid Central AHEC (Area Health Education Center) which is an academic partner of CMU and covers 19 counties including all 14 of the EMCOG counties. There are five regional centers in Michigan. The three pillars of AHEC are Recruitment, Student Rotations and Retention in the underrepresented and underserved areas.

A copy of the Lisa's powerpoint presentation was shared with the RED Team and others attending this meeting. More information can be found at:

https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/cmed/about_cmed/Pages/AHEC.aspx

There was discussion with the RED Team regarding the data and services offered. EMCOG will be following up with a meeting with Lisa to determine data sharing and information for the CEDS re-write.

9. Other: Parking Lot Items

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

Saginaw Bay Water Trail Alliance: Frank Starkweather, President

Frank provided a handout listing accomplishments and next steps of the alliance along with his contact information. The Alliance is seeking volunteers to assist in various capacities.

10. Updates from RED Team Members and Guests

Erine Adams, Kirtland Community College Workforce Development

She attended the Governor's Economic Summit and commended Region 5 with one of the most notable presentations.

Bob Balzer, Gladwin County EDC Director and MichiganWorks!

He is working on his first major attraction plan and is leaning heavily on Kathy Methner for guidance. March 11th is the Gladwin County Community Broadband Certification celebration. This is only the beginning. They are starting up a mentoring program with the Beaverton and Gladwin school districts for those who do not understand the

technology but want to. The SPROUT Lab initiative is now open to a broader audience rather than limiting it to an agriculture and natural resources focus.

Mandi Chasey, Ogemaw County EDC and MichiganWorks!

They are hosting a March 19th event regarding the transportation funding package and getting the legislators informed of what the citizens think. The Center for Michigan is organizing these events all over the State. Locations are available on their website.

Frank Cloutier, Public Relations Director, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

The Tribe is in the process of developing a Tribal transportation feasibility study and is working with Midland, Bay and Arenac counties regarding the need for medical transportation as part of this effort.

Zygy Dworzecki, Tuscola County Planning Commissioner

He completed a business plan for the food hub and was surprised to find that production per acre has increased quite a bit while the number of farm acres as decreased. Three windmill farms are going up. The County GIS system is being developed with partial areas going up this month. The County is working with ConnectMichigan toward broadband certification.

Steve Erickson, Tuscola County EDC

Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. started producing in February, farmers are building barns and a facility is being developed to process organic beans.

Curt Hillman, Manager, City of Standish

Water and sewer permits have been approved for a new adult foster care facility. The city is in the initial stages of getting a farmers market with donated land in the downtown area. The industrial park is growing: Global Fire Suppression is very active with a recent new addition, Vantage Plastics has a 24,000 square foot expansion; they will recycle plastics in the building they are vacating due to the new addition.

Mark Hitchcock, MSU Extension, Iosco County

Mark reminded the group that there are still some placemaking workshops around the State and that these may be the last round of free workshops.

Pat Killingbeck, Arenac County EDC Board

A local grocery store building has been purchased; it has been a while since the City of Au Gres has had one. The medical services sector continues to grow.

Kathy Methner, Middle Michigan Development Corporation and MichiganWorks!

The City of Clare Irish Fest is next week and will include the Polar Express coming into town. She attended the Governor's Economic Summit: Region 5 has a lot of great things going on.

Ron Quackenbush, Ogemaw County Commissioner

The Ogemaw County 2015 Economic Summit will be held on April 2nd.

Chris Shannon, Mayor, City of Bay City

Provided a brief history of the redevelopment of City Hall and discussion of other development projects in the city. Invited the group to come back when the weather warms up to experience the riverfront activities.

11. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the RED Team the meeting was declared adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 1, 2015

2015 RED TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 16, 2015	Full RED Team	12:30 pm	The Bancroft, Saginaw
March 6, 2015	Full RED Team	12:30 pm	Room 317, City Hall, Bay City
May 1, 2015	Full RED Team	12:30 pm	Riverwalk, City of Gladwin
July 10, 2015	Full RED Team	11:00 am	Iosco County (specific site TBD)
September 11, 2015	Full RED Team	12:30 pm	Houghton Lake Library
November 6, 2015	Full RED Team	12:30 pm	Tuscola County (specific site TBD)

RED Team meetings begin at 12:30 PM following 10:00 AM Full Council meetings. Lunch will be available at the meeting site at approximately 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.