

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, May 1, 2015

12:30 p.m.

Riverwalk Place
777 W. Cedar Street
Gladwin, MI
989 246-8000
www.riverwalkplace.net

Attendees:

RED Team: George Bailey, Bob Balzer, Mandi Chasey, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Tony Fox, Mark Hitchcock, Clint Holmes, Gary Kellan, Kathy Methner, Robert Moffit, William Mrdeza, Rosalie Myers, Ron Quackbush, William Rhode, Ann Richards, Patti Stowell, Carol Wetzel

EMCOG: Bill Ernat, Dave Engelhardt, Jane Fitzpatrick

Guests: Brenda Bachelder, Michigan Works and Arenac County EDC Interim Director; Bill Bushaw, Tuscola County EDC Board Chair; Julie Cowie, GVSU SPROUT Lab; Katy Hintzen, Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator; Representative Joel Johnson, District 97; John Stanley, City of Au Gres City Manager

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 March 6, 2015 RED Team Minutes

Zygy Dworzecki proposed a change to the wording reflecting his report to the RED Team (page 5 of the minutes). The minutes were approved with this change.

4. Chairperson Updates: Kathy Methner

The Chair pointed out the meeting guidelines that are included on the agenda and discussed how she would like the meetings to be run. She also briefly discussed attending the

Governor's Economic Summit In March. The Summit was focused on the link between education and economic development with a push for career technical programs and preparing our children beginning at a younger age.

5. Updates from EMCOG:

5.a. RPI Update: Jane Fitzpatrick

(1) RPI-5 Strategy: Staff and the RPI-5 Strategic Management Team are preparing a matrix of the strategy tasks, identifying who is doing what and to what extent within the 8 county region in order to identify gaps. EMCOG will be starting up the Center of Excellence Action Strategy with TIP Strategies Inc. later this month.

(2) GLBRA STEM Initiative: this GLBRA initiative has been folded into the strategies for RPI-5. GLBRA has expanded their initiative to cover all 8 counties in RPI-5 with four (4) STEM Teams at SVSU, CMU, Delta Community College and Mid-Michigan Community College. Jane Fitzpatrick is a member of the Mid-Michigan Community College STEM Team.

(3) RPI-5 Business Attraction Plan: the MEDC Region 5 Collaborative has contracted with GLBRA through an MEDC grant to develop a business attraction plan for the 8 counties in RPI-5.

(4) Target Market Analysis: EMCOG is working with MSHDA to submit a grant for the 8 county region for an housing market analysis. The MSHDA focus is to have these studies done for each prosperity region. The grant application is due in June.

5.b. SPROUT Lab Initiative Update

Jane deferred to Julie Cowie for an update. On the up-side we have three trained co-starters facilitators from our region: Bob Balzer, Mark Hitchcock and Garrett Geer. On the downside, the co-starters classes have not been successful anywhere in the state. Julie believes there were a number of reasons including it just being the wrong time and the difficulty of getting the word out to the right people. She will be focusing on teaming up with high schools, Future Farmers of America, while still keeping the program open to adults. She is also talking to Erin Adams at Kirtland Community College regarding a partnership with a community college.

5.c. RED Team Membership: No changes at this time.

6. Overview of ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Study of Financial Hardship in the EMCOG Region (UnitedWayALICE.org/Michigan): Jane Fitzpatrick

The Michigan report, "ALICE Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed" provides a great deal of information on a subject that the RED Team has been discussing for some time. Jane provided an over view of the analyses (handout at the meeting) that she did for the EMCOG region based on the information provided in this report (www.UnitedWayALICE.org/Michigan)

Jane is working with the Saginaw County United Way and the Michigan Association of United Way on an ALICE summit at SVSU on June 15th. Information will be sent out as it becomes available.

7. Guest: State Representative Joel Johnson, District 97 (Clare, Gladwin, Arenac and part of Osceola County) and Chair of the Committee on Workforce and Talent Development; also a member of committees on Agriculture, Commerce and Trade and Judiciary.

Representative Johnson spoke of many of the issues that contribute to the ALICE situation and how programs and initiatives can provide support including the Community Ventures/ERN programs; addressing student debt, long term unemployment, getting folks to work and staying at work; easier licensing for Veterans, better job assistance for parolees.

8. Guest: Katy Hintzen, Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator, Saginaw Bay, MSUE To Discuss the Community Resiliency Assessment and Strategies project in our Region (resiliency strategies are a new CEDS Requirement):

Michigan Sea Grant is leading an effort to enhance community resiliency in the Saginaw Bay watershed with a focus on extreme storm events and their impacts. The first step in this effort includes an assessment of how government officials and key decision makers across 22 counties in the watershed perceive the threat of extreme storms and prepare their communities to address this hazard. The project is still in its earliest phase and Katy is seeking feedback from the RED Team to help inform design and implementation.

Katy provided a brief overview of the project noting that we are seeing a rise in extreme storm events (100 year storm events). Jane Fitzpatrick is on the steering committee for this project. The assessment phase of the project will be launched in the Fall of 2015. She opened the discussion to Q & A with input and comments from several attendees. Comments included:

- Maintenance (or lack of) of flood control systems;
- Agribusiness discussions regarding a lack of resiliency and climate change equaling an economic opportunity for innovation;
- Look at the use of storm water out-flow; get creative with how we dispose of water; make use of it rather than just get rid of it;
- Holding fields in agricultural areas;
- Restricting water flow;
- Regulations regarding runoff from county to county (similar to the pre and post construction runoff regulations).

9. Other: Parking Lot Items

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

No additional items were added for discussion

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

Clint Holmes, City of Brown City

A Sanilac County countywide Geographical Information System (GIS) program is starting up.

Kathy Methner, Middle Michigan Development Corporation and MichiganWorks

Northern Logistics and the City of Caro have received a Region 5 Prosperity Award for a partnership between the city and Northern Logistics for a commitment of 60 new jobs in exchange for paving of a roadway.

Rosalie Myers, Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation

Distributed handouts regarding the website of 22 northern counties. www.upnorthtrails.org
This website includes all types of trails: water, bicycling, equestrian, etc.

Patti Stowell, Economic Development Director, City of Bay City

Uptown: The Real Seafood restaurant opened on May 6th and the new medical facility is breaking ground. Also Landaal Packaging Systems has completed construction of a 60,000 square foot facility in Bay City.

Mark Hitchcock, MSU Extension Education, Iosco County

The MSU Tourism Team is doing a blitz regarding “Understanding Tourism”

Zygy Dworzecki, Tuscola County Planning Commission

The County Geographic Information System (GIS) is going pretty well with about 1/3rd of the information in the system.

Gary Kellan, Airport Development District Manager, Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport

Gary gave an update since the RED Team tour after our meeting there last year: the new hanger is completed and started maintenance work in February with operations scheduled through the rest of the year.

11. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the RED Team the meeting was declared adjourned at 2:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: July 10, 2015, Iosco County RESA at Noon

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 Place, Gladwin
July 10, 2015	Full RED Team	Noon	Iosco County RESA
September 11, 2015	Full RED Team	11:45 am	Houghton Lake Library
November 6, 2015	Full RED Team	11.45 am	Tuscola County (specific site TBD)

Starting in September, 2015 RED Team meetings begin at 11:45 AM following the 10:00 AM Full Council meetings. Lunch will be available at the meeting site at upon adjournment of the Council meeting 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.

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.