

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Date: Friday, January 22, 2016

Time: 11:45 A.M.

Location: Buena Vista Charter Township | 1160 S. Outer Drive | Saginaw, MI 48601

Attendees:

RED Team: Brenda Bachelder, Bob Balzer, Mandi Chasey, Zygy Dworzecki, , Steve Erickson, Garrett Geer, Christine Greve, Steve Jonas, Gary Kellan, Pat Killingbeck, Adam Kroczaleski, Patrick McElgunn (alternate for Christine Reeves and Tony Fox), Kathy Methner, Dexter Mitchell, Robert Moffit, Bill Mrdeza, Rosalie Myers, Jay O'Farrell, Helen Pasakarnis, William Rhode, Ann Richards, Erik Rodriguez

EMCOG: Dave Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick

Guests: Brian Chapman (City of Vassar), Wanda Dziwurki (USDA Rural), Jacob Hilliker (Congressman Kildee), John Karres (TIP Strategies, Inc.), Trevor Keyes (Bay Future, Inc.), Jeff Marcell (TIP Strategies, Inc.) Evelyn Ravuri (SVSU), Patricia Rayl (City of Auburn) Corey Schmidt (City of Marlette)

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions

The RED Team meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Kathy Methner; attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of item 7.f at the request of Jane Fitzpatrick

3. Review and Approval of July 10, 2015 RED Team Minutes

The draft minutes of the November 6, 2015 RED Team meeting were approved with no changes.

4. Chairperson Updates:

Kathy Methner, Chair deferred comments to agenda item 9

5. Centers of Excellence for EMCOG: Jeff Marcell and John Karras of TIP Strategies, Inc.

Jeff Marcell and John Karras gave an extensive overview of the RPI-5 Centers of Excellence project including the next steps for implementation. The project was funded through the 2015 RPI-5 grant from the State of Michigan DTMB. It was selected by the RPI-5 Collaborative as their priority project for 2015 funding. Although the project is based on the eight county Prosperity Region 5 the scope is not limited to the eight counties. The new EMCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to be considered for approval during this meeting) includes this initiative as one of the EMCOG objectives (Chapter 4, Goal 3, Objective 6). Several of the RED Team members provided questions and comments and suggestions to the consultants. The final Centers of Excellence document will be available by January 31st and distributed to the RED Team as well as posted on www.emcog.org

6. CEDS Review and Approval for Submittal to EDA: Jane Fitzpatrick and RED Team

Jane Fitzpatrick distributed updates to the CEDS document and Implementation matrix that include suggested revisions based on public comment. Evelyn Ravuri, SVSU was introduced and acknowledged for her assistance in creating the Appendix A Economic and Demographic Profile along with the summary found in Chapter 2 of the CEDS document. The RED Team unanimously approved the documents with the proposed revisions.

7. Updates from EMCOG:

7.a. RPI-5 2016 Grant Status: Jane Fitzpatrick

The only news received from the DTMB is that we should hear about the grant status by January 31, 2016.

7.b. Target Market Analysis (MSHDA Grant): Jane Fitzpatrick

The study for RPI-3 (including Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon counties) is well underway. The Prosperity Region 5 study kick-off meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 2nd. The project steering committee is meeting at 10:30 a.m. followed by a TMA Tutorial beginning at 12:30 p.m. The focus area includes each of the eight counties plus 16 specific study areas including the county seat for each county. LandUse|USA is the consulting firm selected for the project. Sharon Woods of this firm is a MSHDA certified TMA consultant.

7.c. Rural Transit Mobility: Dave Engelhardt

Both Dave and Jane reviewed draft documents for the RPI-5 study and participated in a statewide conference call on this project. Once review drafts are distributed EMCOG will share them with the RED Team and RPI-5 Strategic Management Team for comment and feedback.

7.d. Saginaw Bay Watershed Coastal Storms Project (MI Sea Grant): Jane Fitzpatrick

The survey results have been collected. There were over 300 surveys filled out of which 265 were complete and can be used for analyzing survey findings. The project steering committee will be meeting on February 25th to review a summary report and the raw data with the goal of determining potential project ideas and next steps based on the survey results. Katy Hintzen sends a big thank you to the RED Team for its outreach efforts that resulted in the large survey response rate.

7.e. Hazardous Mitigation Plans: Bill Ernat

Bill gave a brief update of activities and referred to this written report that was presented to the Council at the morning meeting.

7.f. Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy: Jane Fitzpatrick

Jane made the announcement that she has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (SBLC), representing EMCOG. The SBLC exemplifies much of what EMCOG supports and strives for as reflected in the new CEDS document as well as based on programs that EMCOG has been involved in either directly or indirectly throughout its history. www.sblc-mi.org

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

Pat Killingbeck on behalf of Carrolton Township

Carrolton Township has a project under consideration that is dependent on dredging of the Saginaw River to a deeper depth. Also mentioned legislation under consideration regarding changes to PA 169 (Historic Preservation)

Brenda Bachelder, Arenac County EDC and Michigan Works

A 27,000 square foot memory care assisted living facility is underway. Also a new Dollar Store is moving in to Sterling. Manufacturers in the area have been expanding. Brenda will be doing some EDC strategic planning including a broadband initiative.

Rosalie Myers, Roscommon County EDC

Tip Up Town will be held for the next two weekends. There will be a Career Expo with a focus on building trades on February 17th at the All Seasons Hotel and Conference Center at Houghton Lake.

Trevor Keyes, Bay Future, Inc.

Discussed the marketing and attraction efforts through then GLBRA; each EDC has been responsible for their own but the GLBRA will now be able to do this on behalf of all 8 counties in RPI-5 at site selector conferences, etc. This is a good collaborative effort with a three year arrangement for the 8 counties to fund the GLBRA effort. Bay Future is working on a brewery project.

Patricia Rayl, City of Auburn

Patricia is relatively new as the city manager. She is working on a USDA grant submission for a cover for the ice rink and farmer's market at the city park.

Erik Rodriquez, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

The Tribe has some new Council members and Erik is spending time bringing them up to date. Ground breaking will hopefully happen for the Saganing Eagle Landing expansions.

Gary Kellan, Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Authority

They are pursuing grant money for concrete work on site.

Ann Richards, Oscoda Township DDA

The township is making wastewater treatment plant improvements; approximately \$415,000 of DNR Trust Fund monies are secured for park expansion work; the DDA is down about 20 jobs.

Steve Jonas, Saginaw Future

Saginaw Future is coming into a new fund raising year as part of their 3 year cycle; New building in Buena Vista Charter Township: around 750,000 square feet for manufacturing warehousing distribution. Fedex will occupy about one third of this space. Also looking at a \$250,000 medical investment in the county. The annual awards luncheon will be held on February 19th.

Kathy Methner, Middle Michigan Development Corporation and MichiganWorks!

The City of Harrison was designated as a Rising Tide community for RPI-5. The city has completed a work plan and met with CMU students who will be doing the marketing plan. An asset management plan and talent assessment will also be done. Regarding the Hops Summit follow-up: The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe will be applying for an USDA grant for a feasibility study to help define what that looks like...this fits in with the Centers of Excellence.

9. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the RED Team the meeting was declared adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2016 at 11:45 a.m.

2016 RED TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TIME	LOCATION
January 22, 2016	11:45 am	Buena Vista Charter Township
March 4, 2016	11:45 am	Houghton Lake Public Library
May 6, 2016	11:45 am	Riverwalk, City of 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 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.