

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Meeting Date: Friday, September 9, 2016

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

Location: Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Address: 200 East Broadway St. | Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Attendees:

RED Team Brenda Bachelder, Lisa Barna, Tracy Byard, Mandi Chasey, Zygy Dworzecki, Tony Fox, Garrett Geer, Kathy Methner, Robert Moffit, Bill Mrdeza, Rosalie Myers, Jay O'Farrell, Don Schurr, Brian Smith, Bill Wright, Kacey Zehner

EMCOG: Dave Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick

Guests: Russ Alwood, Union Township, Nancy Boxey, MDARD, James Espinoza, MEDC, James McBryde, Middle Michigan Development Corporation, Jerry Nelson, City of Standish; Pam O'Laughlin, Clare Chamber of Commerce

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions

The RED Team meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Chair Kathy Methner. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Moved by Bob Moffit to approve the agenda; supported by Bill Mrdeza to approve the agenda; motion carried.

3. Review and Approval of July 8, 2016 RED Team Minutes

Moved by Zygy Dworzecki to approve the draft minutes; supported by Bill Mrdeza. Motion carried.

4. Chairperson Updates: Kathy Methner

Discussion of focus on the skilled trades training funds through Michigan Works. MSU is interested in doing supply chain training and certification in Midland in the Spring of 2017. Michigan Works is working on manufacturing and health care related training (not soft skills or safety training) at centralized locations if enough people participate. All application must go through Michigan Works.

5. Updates from EMCOG:

5.a. EDA Review of CEDS : Jane Fitzpatrick

There is no update on the status of the EDA review of the EMCOG January 31, 2016 CEDS. As of September 8th the EMCOG CEDS remains in the line to be reviewed.

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

Draft documents for all 8 counties are about 80% complete as of September 7th. Also the draft Regional Workbook is nearly completed. EMCOG did a very thorough review of the 8 county documents plus the regional workbook and provided written comments to the consultant, Sharon Woods resulting in two conference calls to discuss issues and corrections. On Friday, August 19th 5 county documents (Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw) were distributed to the respective county representatives and stakeholders for review and comment and to assist in providing information for two sections of each county report which have not yet been completed:

1. County Overview: an overview of the county/region; transportation networks and an economic overview
2. The City of _____ (featured city within each County report) to include locational advantages, economic advantages, job creation and investment opportunities

The larger cities of Bay City, Midland, Mt Pleasant and Saginaw each have "Placescores" based on local placemaking amenities and initiatives within the documents. Each city has been asked to review their respective score and provide feedback to the consultant, Sharon Woods regarding "did she get it right"?

All comments are to be directly communicated to Sharon via a phone call.

On September 7th the Clare and Gladwin County documents were distributed. Arenac remains pending. The documents are not an easy read, even in the summarizing narrative. The reader must venture back and forth to the regional workbook for explanations of terminology, etc. It will be very important that we get the "users" of these reports to the next round of meetings/tutorials in order to make sure the users of these reports understand what they contain.

We are about one month behind schedule on this project. Next up, along with local review and comment is to schedule a series of 3-4 meetings at different locations around the region to invite in those who we want to be familiar with these reports. Meetings will be held sometime on October 18th through the 20th. We will be seeking hosts for these meetings. As a host it is imperative that you be engaged in the arrangements and invitations lists and also be aware that hosting a meeting does not mean that the presentation will be only on your TMA. Each of the three-four meetings will focus on all 8 counties but offer multiple locations and dates to encourage as much participation as possible. In fact someone can come to 2-4 of the meetings if desired.

James Espinoza of MEDC provided further comment regarding the need to educate our developers who are "old school". He also will request that the consultant for the TMA provide a one page snapshot with pictures to make it easier for the stakeholders and users of the documents to absorb the data.

5.c. Transit Mobility: Jane Fitzpatrick

EMCOG is planning to organize a transit summit in multiple locations around the region in October to determine next steps for the transit strategy documents.. MDOT has switched the regional geographical definition for this next phase of implementation: even though the reports were completed based on prosperity regions MDOT wants the strategy meetings to determine implementation to be done based on the regional planning agency boundaries which means 14 counties for EMCOG. STARS has commissioned the Ezekiel Project to conduct an outreach survey to be completed by the end of September. EMCOG will have this information as part of the October transit meetings.

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

The main work on this project over the past two months has been on the 1986 flood anniversary. The website www.1986Flood.com will launch next week. It will include an interactive map where people can submit photos and stories from their experiences during the flood. The material submitted will be archived permanently at the Bay County Historical Museum. The site includes information of preparing for future floods. Other projects and events relating to green and resilient infrastructure and certification programs for lowering the cost of flood/hazard insurance are being planned for 2017.

5.e. Hazardous Mitigation Plans: Bill Ernat

Bill provided a written report plus answered questions.

5.f. Iron-Belle Trail Facilitation: Bill Ernat

2016: The initial work is underway by Bill Ernat of EMCOG with assistance from Dave Engelhardt. The counties include Tuscola, Saginaw, Bay and Arenac. Initial meetings and contacts have been made in all four counties.

2017 Work Plan:

The planning area remains the 4 counties mentioned above. The facilitator (Bill Ernat) will be responsible for advancing the status of then IBT including working with local government agencies, local elected officials, local interest groups, MDNR, MDOT, property owners and contractors. The level of work varies for each county:

Arenac County: there are no existing trails that have been identified to be part of the IBT. The projected IBT has been broken down into 3 areas: Bay County to Omer; Omer to Au Gres; and Au Gres to Iosco County. The tasks include establishing working committees for each of the 3 segments to finalize the preferred routes, identify property owners and open discussions for acquisition/leasing of property.

Bay Saginaw and Tuscola Counties: There is an existing base of stakeholders currently involved in developing trails in each of the three counties, several of which (trails) have been identified to be included as part of the IBT. These existing groups will be used as the committee for the IBT in Bay, Saginaw and Tuscola Counties.

5.g. Reaching for Opportunity Summit: Jane Fitzpatrick

The Summit will be taking place on Monday, October 10th at SVSU. Invitations will be sent out as early as today. EMCOG (Jane) has served on the steering committee for this summit which is being led by the Michigan College Access Network and includes a presentation and overview by John Austin, President, Michigan State Board of Education. There will be a county by county local data overview presentation by Brandy Johnson, Executive Director, Michigan College Access Network. It is my expectation that the outcome of this summit will be an organized effort to work on solutions to improve post-secondary education access for all.

There was discussion by the meeting attendees regarding access issues including adequate access to broadband in the region as colleges move to online instruction as enrollment is dropping.

5.h. PR-5 Updates: Jane Fitzpatrick

Centers of Excellence (COE):

Movement of this initiative has been on the slow side lately with the exception of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe receiving a \$75,000 USDA Rural grant (Business Development grant process) to develop a feasibility study for Hops and Barley production in the mid-Michigan region. The study will determine if Hops and Barley production is a viable activity within the region, and if so, will significantly increase the possibility of increased production locally as well as expanded economic development activities. A RFP is being developed.

Jane met with Dr. George Kikano, CMU Medical School. He has offered to host a COE summit to bring in public and private entities around the region to hear about the COE, meet the leaders of each of the four entities and discuss the merits of each and what has been done to date and then break out into smaller groups based on the focus areas and build teams for each: start small to gather momentum. Jane will be calling together the COE task force to (1) gauge their interest in this approach and (2) assume they want to move forward to begin the planning for this.

Quantifying Talent (PR-5 Priority Project for 2016):

The project task force held their first meeting with SVSU on July 12th to review the initial project report outline and determine if it is consistent with the desires of the group/PR-5 Strategic Management Team and to identify any elements of the outline that they would like to add/remove. Also the purpose of meeting was to fine tune the data collection portion of the report and meet and have a discussion with the two student interns. It was noted that this report/study/analysis has the potential to complement and enhance the Business Attraction Plan that is being done by Silverlode Consulting for the GLBRA counties plus the remaining 4 counties within PR-5. SVSU is now collecting and cleaning data sets and now has an initial dataset to work and will then focus on extracting from it the information we (EMCOG/PR-5) want. This dataset will be a work in progress and after providing the initial summary statistics, assumes that we will likely want other variables and/or areas included as part of the process. It is anticipated that Jane will receive summary statistics by September 15th, at which point a second meeting of the project task force will be scheduled.

Discretionary Funds Project for 2016

The 2016 PR-5 budget contains a very small amount for discretionary mini-grant sue: \$15,000. The consensus of the PR-5 Strategic Management Team is to use this money in total for a follow-up to the PR-5 Business Attraction Plan (developed through the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance and their contract with Silverlode Consulting) to develop a combined piece that gives “talking points” of sorts that answers the question, “Why do you live/work/own a business here?”

This would be focused on a combination of business and quality of life factors and would base it on the data that is generated by Silverlode Consulting (who will be providing a very specific business attraction plan in late September).

We will hold off until the end of September at which point we can take a look at the findings and determine what is needed to get it broadly distributed. The consultants may come back with the specific value proposition that we can utilize to prepare materials, put on websites, etc.

PR-5 2017 Application

The application package has not yet been distributed by the State. We are assuming the same time frame as for 2016, receipt of application packet on October 1st and applicant submittal by November 30th. We have begun the process of requesting letters of support and wish to thank those of you who have already sent us one.

6. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Nancy Boxey, Economic Development/Southeast and Mid Michigan.

Nancy Boxey covers 24 counties including 11 of the 14 counties in the EMCOG region. See the summary “Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at a glance” inserted at the end of the minutes. In closing she stated that MDARD is here to be our partners and as such must understand what is happening in our region in order to be successful in getting state funding. It was noted by Jim McBryde that is just as important to work with MDARD as it is with MEDC moving forward.

7. Other: Parking Lot Items

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

No additional items were added for group discussion.

8. **Updates from RED Team Members and Guests** (Note: due to time constraints many attendees deferred to updates provided at the Council meeting which preceded this RED Team meeting.

Jane Fitzpatrick, EMCOG

Jane announced that there will be no RED Team meeting in November due to her travel plans.

Zygy Dworzecki, Arenac County EDC Board

The Village of Akron recently put up a playscape

Kathy Methner, Middle Michigan Development Corporation and MichiganWorks

The City of Harrison hosted the Governor regarding their designation as a Rising Tide community. There will be another round of Rising Tide selections, the cities must have a “can do” attitude.

Tony Fox, SBDC at Mid Michigan Community College

There is a workshop on export legal essentials coming up on September 22nd; they are participating in an SVSU/GLBRA entrepreneurial event on September 30th. This is open to the public.

Rosalie Myers, Roscommon County EDC

The Pure Michigan Business Connect will be in Roscommon next week.

Don Schurr, Greater Gratiot Development Corporation

Gratiot County is in the process of selecting a new county administrator.

9. **Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the RED Team the meeting was declared adjourned at 1:40 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The November RED Team meeting has been canceled. The meeting schedule for 2017 will be established at the November 4, 2016 Council meeting.

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	Canceled	

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.

NOTE: the following was provided by Nancy Boxey as a follow-up to her presentation at the September 9th meeting:

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at a glance

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is comprised of seven divisions that use a customer-driven, solution-oriented approach to cultivate and expand new economic opportunities for the food and agricultural sector; safeguard the public's food supply; inspect and enforce sound animal health practices; control and eradicate plant pests and diseases threatening the \$101.2 billion food and agriculture system; preserve the environment by which the farming community makes their living and feeds consumers; and protect consumers by enforcing laws relating to weights and measures.

Executive Office

Executive Office houses the Office of the Director, who is responsible for policy development, strategic planning, daily operations, and more.

The following department functions also fall under the Executive Office:

- Budget
- Emergency Management
- Legislative Liaison
- Communications
- Performance Management
- Office of Legal Affairs

Agriculture Development Division

Agriculture Development Division delivers expertise and leadership to support economic prosperity in Michigan's food and agriculture sector through industry focused economic development, export assistance and grant management. The division also provides executive support for the Grape and Wine Industry Council and serves as the liaison with Michigan's many agriculture commodity groups.

- International Marketing and business export assistance
- Grape and Wine Program
- Economic development assistance for food and agriculture companies
- Economic development grants

Environmental Stewardship Division

Environmental Stewardship Division provides migrant labor housing inspections, conflict resolution through the Right to Farm program, assistance and support to conservation districts, drain commissioners, and other land users, enabling them to carry out programs that maintain economically viable and environmentally friendly land uses.

MI Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

- Intercounty drains
- Right to Farm
- Migrant labor housing
- Qualified forest program

Animal Industry Division

Animal Industry Division is responsible for programs that control and eradicate reportable, contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases of livestock, poultry, aquaculture, equine and companion animals; controlling contamination of animals from toxic substances; enforcing and supporting the humane treatment of animals; and promoting Michigan's animal industries.

- Animal health and disease response
- Pet shelter licensing
- Animal import/export health certificates
- Privately owned cervid operations
- Bovine tuberculosis

Food and Dairy Division

Food and Dairy Division administers programs to enforce laws and regulations governing the safety and wholesomeness of food and food products; responds to food safety complaints, recalls, and food emergencies; serves as a key link in the federal-state-local food safety system; assists in the food safety education of consumers, regulators, and industry; and assures the interstate movement of milk and dairy products.

- Grocery and convenience store inspections
- Dairy inspections
- Food and dairy processing (new and expanding) business assistance
- Food and dairy processor inspections
- Food recalls
- Certificate of free sale so businesses can export processed products to global markets

Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division administers programs to prevent the introduction of invasive pests and plant diseases; the adulteration of animal food, unsanitary grain storage facilities, and misuse of pesticides; and provides assurance that animal feeds, fertilizers, and pesticides are registered and accurately labeled. PPPM provides grading, inspection, and certification of a variety of commodities including nursery stock, fruits and vegetables.

- Animal feed testing (including pet food)
- Fertilizer testing
- Grain dealer audits
- Pesticide registration
- Exotic pest survey and response (like emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle)
- Fruit and vegetable inspections
- Export assistance through phytosanitary certificates so businesses can ship product out to global markets
- Nursery and plant inspections to ensure they are disease and pest free
- Farm Produce Insurance Authority

Laboratory Division

Laboratory Division helps safeguard consumers every day – whether it be at the gas pump or ensuring our food is pathogen free. As part of MDARD's regulatory programs, the Lab tests for various food and feed pathogens, provides diagnostic testing, ensures the quality and quantity of gas being sold, prevents economic fraud by looking for credit card skimmers, and ensures packages contain the amount of product they claim. Their efforts continue to protect public health, preserve the integrity of the food safety net and ensure consumers are safe at the pump.

- Microbiological testing
- Weights and measures (ensuring packages contain the amount they claim, including scales)
- Motor fuel quality and quantity testing (making sure the gas sold is the proper octane, and getting the amount consumers are paying for)
- Drug residue testing
- Disease (foodborne pathogen testing like e.coli or animal diseases)

www.michigan.gov/mdard
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