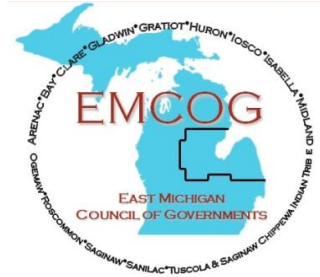


# EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## Approved Minutes of the EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

Meeting Date: Friday, March 1, 2019

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

Location: Bay County Community Center | 800 John F. Kennedy Dr. | Bay City, MI 48706 |

[www.baycounty-mi.gov/communitycenter/](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/communitycenter/)

Attendees:

<b>RED Team</b>	Brenda Bachelder, Mandi Chasey, Zygy Dworzecki, Meaghan Gass, Gary Kellan, Kristi Kozubal, Bill Mrdeza, Pam O’Laughlin, Bill Wright
<b>EMCOG</b>	David Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick, Sue Fortune, Lynn Parker
<b>Guests</b>	Rex Anslie, MDNR; Wanda Dziwvra, Community Homes Solutions; Diane Fong, Bay Area Community Foundation; Jamie Forbes, STARS; Jeremy Howard, City of Mt Pleasant; Steve King, Saginaw Township; Krystal Kozuch, Saginaw ISD; Michael Lutz, Bay County Commission; Delores McKinney, New E.R.A.; Keith Markstrom, Bay Veterans Foundation; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Tim Muckenthaler, Roscommon County Commission; Laura Ogar, Bay County; Bob Redmond, Bay County; Brian Rombalski, Saginaw Township; Chloe Updegraff, Bay, Midland, Mt Pleasant & Saginaw Community Foundations; Michael Webster, Saginaw County Commission; Dale Wiltse, City of Au Gres

### 1. Call to order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm. Acting Chair, Bill Mrdeza welcomed all. All present introduced themselves.

### 2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

### 3. Review and Approval of January 18, 2019 RED Team Minutes

The minutes were approved with no changes.

### 4. Chairperson Update:

Bill Mrdeza chaired the meeting as RED Team Chair, Bob Balzer is out of State due to a prior commitment. There were no additional comments at this time.

**5. The 2020 Census is Coming: What You Need to Know – Chloe Updegraff, Census Hub Coordinator for the Great Lakes Bay Region**

Chloe Updegraff is the newly appointed Census Hub Coordinator for the Great Lakes Bay Region, This initiative is a collaboration of the Bay, Midland, Mt Pleasant and Saginaw community foundations through the Michigan Nonprofit Complete Count Campaign Census 2020. She began the presentation by identifying unique challenges for the 2020 Census including an increasingly older, more diverse, lower income population, limited access to technology, and greater discomfort engaging with government. Added to this are the constraints within the U.S. Census bureau itself such as a shift to mostly online participation, a 50% decrease in regional and local census offices and a scaled back door-to-door outreach. Those attending the meeting that are located in counties outside of the 4 county service area (Bay, Midland, Isabella and Saginaw) are urged to work together to develop resources and centers for their areas. Chloe can be reached at [CUpdegraff@greatlakesbay.org](mailto:CUpdegraff@greatlakesbay.org). Chloe will provide a copy of her presentation and other resources to Jane Fitzpatrick to distribute to attendees. Further information can be found at <https://becountedmi2020.com/> and <https://census.gov/>

**6. Integrated Economic Development Activities:** Jane Fitzpatrick (written reports from EMCOG staff)

Jane referred to her March 1st memo to the EMCOG Council and RED Team that was provided as a handout for the meeting. Highlights include the 2019 CEDS Assessment and Review by EDA (CEDS annual assessment was covered in the January meeting and has since been approved by EDA); meetings with our EDA representative and local governments in Bay and Isabella counties regarding potential EDA grants; the status of the 2019 RPI-5 Mini an Micro Grant initiative; Integrated asset management and the WAMC and the upcoming 2019 Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) report for Michigan. Jane is attending the March 20<sup>th</sup> press event in Lansing corresponding with the release of the report. Preliminary statics include:

- 40% of Michigan's population cannot afford basic household necessities;
- Basic household expenses have risen in every county since 2007. The average is 18% which is higher than the national average of 14%;
- The majority of jobs in Michigan are low wage jobs, paying less than \$20 per hour. More than 2/3rd of these jobs pay less than \$15 per hour.
- Childcare affordability and accessibility represents 24% of household income.

**7. Good of the Order**

***Dave Rowley, MSU Extension***

Dave was not able to attend the meeting. At his request Jane Fitzpatrick distributed an announcement of upcoming classes planned in Isabella County including *Opportunity Zones*; *Conducting Land Division Reviews* and *Citizen Planner*.

***Jamie Forbes – Saginaw Transit Authority & Regional Services (STARS)***

STARS is starting a new program to provide non-emergency medical transport. The program is being modeled after the existing Genesee County program. It will initially be a county-wide service which will eventually extend into Midland and Bay counties. This door-to-door service will be covered by health providers and will utilize cars and smaller vehicles.

***Brenda Bachelder, Roscommon County EDC and Region 7B Michigan Works.***

Michigan Works has hired some talent specialists to work with employers to increase retention.

***Zygy Dworzecki, Tuscola County Planning Commission***

A soybean processing plant is on its way. DTE will be providing power and covering the cost of such. Many master plans are being updated in the County. Many communities are opting out of Marijuana manufacturing.

***Keith Markstrom, Bay Veterans Association***

Bay County has the highest percentage of veterans in the State and many of them are women. The Bay Veterans Association started up in 2015. An early project was the renovation of Battery Park adjacent to the Bay County Building. This was followed by a Michigan Gold Star monument. They recently purchased a building in Bay City and are renovating it to become a workshop/creative center for veterans to provide assistance in transitioning and mentoring. They received a mini grant from EMCOG in 2018 to assist in the renovation of the building.

***Mandi Chasey, Ogemaw County EDC and Michigan Works Region 7B***

They've just completed an housing study and are now looking for regulations for a rental housing inspection program. Bill Mrdeza indicated that Mt Pleasant has one which he will share with Mandi. Also, Ogemaw County MichiganWorks is partnering with Iosco County for the MI Career Quest. An event will be held at the Iosco RESA this month. And recent news: Ogemaw County voted last night to no longer provide funding support for the Ogemaw County EDC.

***Meaghan Gass, MSU Extension, MI Sea Grant***

The Iosco County United States Gypsum Company Alabaster Plant is teaching kids how to fish. The event is March 16 and 17th. Information can be found at <https://usgalabaster.com/2019/02/08/usg-hosts-project-f-i-s-h-training-at-alabaster/>

***Bob Redmond, Bay County***

The Shaheen family recently announced a new development in Uptown that includes 0-15 years of development. The former Sears building will be demolished as part of the development which will include investment of \$23 million for 700,000 to 800,000 square feet of commercial and river residential development.

***Bill Mrdeza, City of Mt Pleasant***

The Michigan Association of Planning will be holding a zoning administration workshop in Mt Pleasant next Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Information can be found at [www.planningmi.org](http://www.planningmi.org)

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Acting Chair Bill Mrdeza at 1:50 pm

## 2019 **RED TEAM** MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 18, 2019	Full RED Team	11:45 am	Andersen Enrichment Center Saginaw, MI
March 1, 2019	Full RED Team	11:45 am	Bay County Community Center Bay City, MI
May 3, 2019	Joint Council & RED Team	10:00 am	Riverwalk Place Gladwin, MI
July 12, 2019	Full RED Team	11:45 am	Warrior Pavillion – Van Etten Lake Oscoda, MI
September 13, 2019	Full RED Team	11:45 am	Saganing Tribal Center Standish, MI
November 1, 2019	Full RED Team	11:45 am	City Hall City of Mt Pleasant

RED Team meetings begin at 11:45 a.m. following 10:00 a.m. Full Council meetings (Note: the exception is the May 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting which starts at 10:00 am). 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.