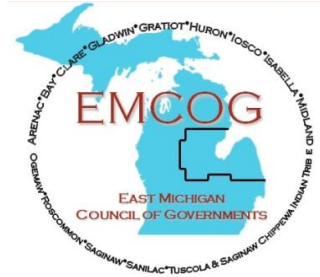


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Approved Minutes of the November 1, 2019 Meeting of the EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

Meeting Date: Friday, November 1, 2019

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

Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort | Three Fires Meeting Room | Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Attendees:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| RED Team | Bob Balzer, Tracy Byard, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Latrice Goodwine, Heath Kaplan, Gary Kellan, Kathy Methner, Bill Mrdeza, Tim Muckenthaler, Pam O’Laughin, Robert Redmond, Brian Smith, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright, Kasey Zehner |
| EMCOG | David Engelhardt, Jane Fitzpatrick |
| Guests | Lou Glazer, Michigan Future, Inc., Keith Markstrom, Bay Veterans Foundation; Jacob Kain, City of Mt Pleasant; Jim McBryde, MMDC; Kristen McDonald, Greater Midland; Jackie Morgan, USDA; Rich VanTol, Bay-Arenac ISD, Stacie Sherman, SBDC; Michelle Sponseller, City of Mt Pleasant |

1. Call to order, Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. All attending introduced themselves. Brian Smith of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe welcomed everyone and gave a brief update on recent Improvements made to the SCIT properties in Mt Pleasant.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda:

Zygy Dworzecki moved and Bill Mrdeza supported approving the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

3. Review and Approval of September 13, 2019 RED Team Minutes

Zygy Dworzecki moved and Bill Mrdeza supported approving the September 13, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

4. Chairperson Update: Robert Balzer

Bob commented briefly on a couple of things. This past Wednesday, October 30th was the Middle Michigan MiCareer Quest at the SVSU Ryder Center. Approximately 10,000 students participated from every school district in our region. This event will be held next year too. Bob thanked EMCOG for awarding a grant to provide transportation for students to attend the event. On another topic, Going PRO Talent Fund applications were just completed. Gladwin County has submitted six applications.

5. Why Placemaking is Critical to Michigan's Prosperity: Lou Glazer, President , Michigan Future Inc.

Mr. Glazer is President and co-founder of Michigan Future Inc., a non-partisan, non-profit organization. Michigan Future's mission is to be a source of new ideas on how Michigan can succeed as a world class community in a knowledge-driven economy. Its work is funded by Michigan Foundations. More information about Michigan Future Inc. can be found at www.michiganfuture.org

The overall theme of Mr. Glazer's presentation is that Talent attracts capital; it is not the other way around. The presentation was interspersed with many questions and answers and the attendees were very engaged in the discussion.

6. RED Team Meeting Schedule for 2020: Robert Balzer

The 2020 RED Team schedule will mirror the EMCOG Council 2020 meeting schedule which was approved at the 10:00 am Council meeting. Jane will send out the meeting schedule. If anyone wishes to host a meeting please let EMCOG know.

7. EMCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Assessment: Jane Fitzpatrick

The annual CEDS status report was recently completed and will be distributed to the RED Team for review and comment. Jane also prepared an updated CEDS Implementation Matrix which will be sent out by mid November. The annual status report was done a bit earlier this year in order to prepare for an assessment of the CEDS and the RPI-5 Strategy during 2020 for development of a new 5-Year CEDS to be completed by January 31, 2021. An assessment of the current CEDS will be a large part of the next meeting of the RED Team in January, 2020.

8. Integrated Economic Development Activities: EMCOG Staff (highlights of written reports sent out prior to the meeting).

Jane referred to her memorandum to the Council and RED Team that was distributed for today's meeting. In addition she provided highlights of the October 29-30 DEGLE Source Water Protection Conference which she attended.

9. Good of the Order

Bob Balzer, Gladwin County EDC and Michigan Works! Region 7B

Bob noted that possible presentations at future meetings will include a discussion on Opportunity Zones and also we will bring in a blight expert. He asked for other suggests from those in attendance and/or that they contact EMCOG in the future.

Kasey Zehner, Greater Gratiot Development Corporation

Zeeland Farms Services will be operational at the end of this year. They are already taking in grain. Sixty-eight new wind turbines are being built right now and another 60-70 will be built in the southwest part of Gratiot County by the end of next year. At that point there will be over 200 wind turbines in Gratiot County. Manufacturing is going strong. Pontoon Boat manufacturing is continuing to expand even with the past difficult summer.

Tim Muckenthaler, Roscommon County Commission

Roscommon county is close to the having the countywide brownfield redevelopment authority ready to go.

Kathy Methner, Consultant and Manager of Harrison City Market

Kathy is working with a number of communities on grant applications including many in Beaverton; the moving of the Arenac County Fairgrounds to a new location in order to expand the Standish Industrial Park; the City of Gladwin Historic Village/Farmers Market expansion; the Trail of Two Cities project; and repurposing of the historic Surry House in Harrison to become a public library.

Pam O’Laughlin, Middle Michigan Development Corporation / Michigan Works! Region 7B

Pam is working on some solar energy projects in Clare County.

Tracy Byard, Clare County

The County sent out an RPF for mapping to benefit 911, Equalization, Treasurer, and Clerk’s offices. An upcoming November Board of County Commissioners meeting will be the first of two public hearings regarding the transfer of the County Road Commission to the Board of County Commissioners. The second public hearing will be in the 3rd week of December. After the two public hearings the County Commission will make a motion (if moving forward) to put this on the August 4, 2020 ballot.

Joel Vernier, Gladwin County Commission

The Commission has given approval to partner with the Mid Michigan District Heath Department regarding septic systems regulations. Each household in Gladwin County puts out 82K gallons of wastewater annually through their septic systems. Joel also noted that Gladwin County is working on 2020 Census outreach and education. The county population more than doubles from 28,000 to 66,000 during the summer months.

Keith Markstrom, Bay Veterans Foundation

Keith noted that during the renovation of the building that will house the organization they started using a work crew from the Bay County Sheriff Office (after the environmental hazards had been removed) The experience with this work crew opened the foundation’s eyes to need and there are now three sub groups for mentoring to include the work group from Sheriff Department in addition to women veterans and also male veterans...They are having an impact without even opening the doors. it is now a magnet for those that are in need of assistance: mentoring and not a handout. Keith also acknowledged the two grants from EMCOG that are assisting with this initiative.

Latrice Goodwine, Buena Vista Charter Township

The first sit down restaurant in many years will be opening in BVCT next week. BVCT is working with a U of M graduate program on a feasibility study as the township is a food desert. Demolition funding is being secured to demo a dangerous building in January of 2020. They will be holding a job fair on November 13th. Funding for the job fair is from an EMCOG grant.

Brian Smith, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

The new Saganing Eagles Landing hotel/casino is doing better than expected. The tribe is in the testing phase for their power utility and looking at different generation possibilities including large storage

Gary Kellan, Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Authority

The Michigan Aero Manufacturers Association – Michigan Launch Initiative is scouting out airfields in Michigan from which to launch small to mid size satellites. They have been at Wurtsmith three times now as they look for a Michigan candidate to compete nationally.

Rich VanTol – Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District

He is working with a Bay County (Hampton Township) assisted living care facility with 200+ employees to deliver affordable child care access through the repurposing of an existing building. The facility will be for both employees of the company and the community at large. Also, the Arenac Community Center is now up and running. A mini grant from EMCOG was used for marketing development for fund raising.

Jackie Morgan, USDA

This is the start of the fiscal year and a good time to talk to her about projects for funding. The revolving loan program works very well for gap funding

Bob Redmond, Bay County

Regarding aerial photos that were discussed earlier, Bob suggests going to the Bay County website. He offered to give a demonstration at the EMCOG meeting that Bay County will be hosting in 2020. Also a site is being prepared on the Saginaw River for a new Regional Visitors and Convention Bureau Office.

Steve Erickson, Tuscola County EDC

A \$13 million soybean plant will be opening the first of the year. The EPA Brownfield grant is almost done. The EDC has inherited a dam on the Cass River outside of Caro and are looking at the Frankenmuth dam removal project as an example of how to proceed.

Zygy Dworzecki, Tuscola County Planning Commission

Akron is going forward with their sewer project. There were dead ends put in and no one knows why. Also they are looking at a water project starting next year. MDOT came to Akron to close out two roads at railroad crossings. This is a safety issue and Akron is getting \$300K to do what needs to be done.

Stacie Sherman, SBDC

The SBDC is working with SVSU on expanding its partnership and will be moving to the new location on the SVSU campus in a few weeks.

Bob Balzer, Gladwin County EDC

Bob acknowledged Heath Kaplan, Beaverton City Manager, noting that there has been more going on in the less than two years that Heath has been with the city than has happened in the prior 15 years.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm

NEXT Meeting: January 17, 2020, Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw, MI

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 | Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Mt. Pleasant, MI |

RED Team meetings begin at 11:45 a.m. following 10:00 a.m. Full Council meetings (Note: the exception is the May 3rd 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.