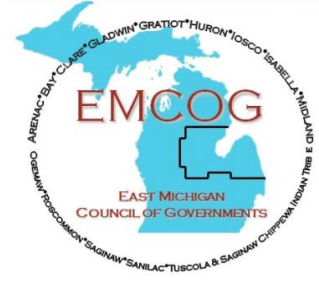


# EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## Approved Minutes of the November 5, 2021 EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

**Meeting Date and Time:** Friday, November 5, 2021 at Noon

**Location:** This was a virtual meeting accessible from a computer, tablet or smartphone

**Attendees:**

<b>RED Team</b>	Natasha Allen, Bob Balzer, Ed Bergeron, Mary Bickel, Tracy Byard, Terri Close, Frank Cloutier, Todd Dickerson, Zygy Dworzecki, Jamie Forbes, Scott Govitz, Eric Johnson, Heath Kaplan, Trevor Keyes, Demetra Manley Jim McBryde, Michael Nunneley, Nicole Wilson, Bill Wright, Kacey Zehner
<b>EMCOG</b>	Jane Fitzpatrick, Bill Ernat, Cynthia Edwards, Cody Bodrie
<b>Guests</b>	Maja Bolanowska, MATS; Adrianna Jordan, Bridgeport Township; Mark Justin, Gladwin County Administrator; Dan Manning, Connect Michigan; Karen Moore, Gladwin County Commission; Tim Muckenthaler, Roscommon County Commission; Rodney Nanny, Union Township; Tom Stephenson, Connect Michigan; Dale Wiltse, City of Au Gres

- 1. Call to order, Welcome, Introductions, Determination of a Quorum:** Robert Balzer, RED Team Chair

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm. A quorum was not present. The meeting proceeded without a quorum with no votes on action items. Those present introduced themselves.

- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda** (action item)  
No action due to lack of a quorum at the time.
- 3. Review and Approval of July 9, 2021 RED Team Minutes** (action item)  
No action due to lack of a quorum at the time.

- 4. Chairperson Update:** Robert Balzer  
Bob took this opportunity to remind everyone of what is being done through EMCOG: grant administration, the CEDS, transportation planning, hazardous mitigation planning, workshops and the sharing of partner information such as is on today's

agenda. He is looking forward to being a part of this in the future as he moves in to a different role of working for Consumers Energy and thanked everyone for their support.

- 5. Broadband Update, Connect Michigan-** Dan Manning and Tom Stephenson  
Dan and Tom provided the latest information regarding the various federal and state programs and grants for broadband connectivity. They are still the primary contact for broadband. The State is setting up an Office of High Speed Broadband/Internet. There is a shift away from hot spots to the fiber network. There is much work being done to upgrade county maps. <https://connectednation.org/michigan/county-maps/>  
They will share their powerpoint slides after the meeting.
- 6. Business Resource Network** - Natasha Allen, MichiganWorks Region 7B  
Natasha discussed the Life Coaches program for working with trends for HR to address issues that are not typically brought to HR. One of the top issues is mental health. The life coaches offer a safe place for employees to come to. The coach works on improvement plans, teaching basic life skills. This program is available in her six counties; this is not a typical MichiganWorks program. The results are showing a drop in the leaving rate of employees.
- 7. Opioid Crisis Grant** - Natasha Allen, MichiganWorks Region 7B  
Natasha has worked with other MichiganWorks offices (NW and NE MichiganWorks) to bring a grant together through the State of Michigan to get federal funds (pre COVID) giving them access of up to \$3.0 Million to spend over 3 years to hire life coaches. The coaches will serve as the connection with agencies impacted by the opioid crisis and MichiganWorks to work toward barrier removal. The grant also includes dislocated work dollars for retraining individuals to get them back in the workforce. Another facet of the grant is working with some of the recovery agencies to talk to employers who are recovery friendly and support workers to stay in recovery and stay employed
- 8. EMCOG GIS/Data Hub Development Update** – Cynthia Edwards, EMCOG  
Cynthia provided a brief update of the data hub development and updates/revisions to the EMCOG website. The Hub will be running and available soon. The presentation provided last summer will be broken down into mini presentations and uploaded on the website along with tutorials on how to use the applications.
- 9. Integrated Economic & Community Development Activities:** Jane Fitzpatrick  
Jane referenced her written report. She also noted that she is working on the first year CEDS progress report that is due to EDA on January 31, 2022. As part of this report preparation she will be asking the RED Team for comments and input on the strategies in the current CEDS.

**10. Reports From Staff - Bill Ernat and Cody Brodie**

Bill and Cody gave a brief overview of their written reports which were previously provided, followed by Q & A.

**11. Partner Updates**

***Eric Johnson, Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District (RESD)***

Eric commented that the broadband discussion has been interesting. He noted that the RESD is looking at increasing construction and auto instruction and investing in students in these areas.

***Jim McBryde, Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC)***

Jim noted that the new MEDC Director visited last week and toured some of the manufacturers in Gratiot and Isabella Counties, including lunch and a roundtable discussion at CMURC, followed by a visit to a Clare County manufacturer and to St Gobain (Gladwin County – Beaverton) as the final stop.

**12. Good of the Order**

***Nicole Wilson, Midland Business Alliance***

Nicole noted that the Connect Michigan Team has been great to work with. A study/survey was done a while ago and they are now starting to put a plan together.

**13. Adjourn :** There being no further business, the RED Team meeting was adjourned at 1:46 pm

## 2021 RED TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 15, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
March 5, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
May 7, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
July 9, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
September 10, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
November 5, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*

\*Contact [jfitzpatrick@emcog.org](mailto:jfitzpatrick@emcog.org) for information.

RED Team meetings begin at Noon following 10:00 AM Full Council meetings. **Unless a virtual meeting**, lunch will be available at the meeting site upon adjournment of the Council meeting at approximately 11:30 AM for those who wish to participate in lunch 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.***