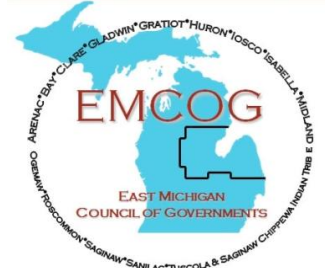


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2023 EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM MEETING

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, January 20, 2023 at Noon (Note: lunch provided at 11:30 am)
Location: SVSU Library, 4th Floor Reading Room

RED Team	Robert Balzer (Chair), Gloria Brooks, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Jamie Forbes, Meaghan Gass, John Kacynski, Demetra Manley, Katherine Methner, Bill Mrdeza, Tim Nieporte, Jay O'Farrell, Pam O'Laughlin, Jeff Punches, Rich Van Tol, Bill Wright
EMCOG	Jane Fitzpatrick
Guests	Sarah Archer, Iris Waste Diversion Specialists; Dr. George Grant Jr, President of SVSU; Dylan Hellus, SVSU; Steve Hensley, Saginaw Future Inc.; Jim Hergott, Arenac County Commission; Christine Maul, Executive Office of Governor Whitmer; Dennis McDonagh, STARS; Tim Mester, Billings Township, Rodney Nanney, Charter Township of Union; Penny Payea, Roscommon County EDC and Michigan Works 7B; Manuela Powidayko, City of Mt Pleasant; Lisa Salgat, Arenac County Commission

- 1. Call to order, Welcome, Introductions, Determination of a Quorum:** Robert Balzer, RED Team
The meeting was called to order at noon. The meeting host, Dr. George Grant Jr. was introduced and welcomed the RED Team to the campus. Introductions of all attendees were made.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda** (action item)
The agenda was approved with no changes.
- 3. Review and Approval of November 4, 2022 RED Team Minutes** (action item)
The minutes of the November 34, 2022 RED Team meeting were approved with no changes.

4. Chairperson Update: Robert Balzer

Bob gave a very brief update, noting that the reason we are all here is to work collaboratively with the 14 counties. He noted the change in the agenda format, moving the Partners Update to the front of the agenda to give each attendee an opportunity to talk so that we can develop partnerships. Bob then moved to the next agenda item for the opportunity to share.

5. Partner Updates: RED Team members and other regional partners

Bill Mrdeza, City of Mt Pleasant

Bill introduced a new staff person Manuela Powidayko, who comes from the City of New York planning department. The City of Mt Pleasant is in the process of doing 2024 goal setting and gave a brief overview of the 3-step process. They are also conducting a citizen's academy as a way to strengthen the policy makers and public engagement. Bill also noted that on March 1st the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) will be holding a regional workshop in Mt Pleasant on master plan development and review of site plans.

Pam O'Laughlin, MMDC and MiWorks, Region 7B

They are engaging youth in the world of work to transition from high school directly in to work by working with K-12 education partners regarding pre-apprenticeships. There are career advisors and navigators in the school districts in all six Region 7B counties.

Jamie Forbes, STARS

Bill Wright is retiring. She introduced Dennis McDonagh, the new director of planning. STARS is about halfway through their feasibility study on the Potter Street Station as a possible multi-modal hub for STARS. STARS is one of two transit agencies in Michigan to receive funding of \$4.0 million to purchase 10 buses. STARS is working on starting up a smart card app.

Steve Hensley, Saginaw Future, Inc.

Steve introduced himself as a new employee of the organization.

Bill Wright, At Large

Bill noted that he joined the RED Team in between stints of various jobs and he still plans to be involved even though he is retiring from STARS.

Kathy Methner, Roscommon County EDC Chair

The EDC is re-evaluating how it operates moving forward. Unfortunately the County ballot measure failed which caused a lot of programs to go away. The EDC remains but the County cannot fund it any more.

Tim Mester, Billings Township

Initiatives they are working on include veterans housing, senior housing and solid waste disposal.

Sarah Archer, Iris Waste Diversion Specialists

Sarah gave a Part 115 update regarding solid waste materials.

Jeff Punches, SBDC at Mid Michigan College

All is going well in the new year.

Demetra Manley, Saginaw Area Transportation Agency

She noted that Michigan received \$25 million out of the new federal transportation bill. Also the new census data shows a population loss in our area. There is a new MPO in Traverse City which will impact the statewide distribution of funds.

Meaghan Gass, MSU Extension, MI SEA Grant

She is planning for 2023 setting up programs which she will share Jane Fitzpatrick to send out to the RED Team

John Kaczynski, SVSU

The Governor has signed the MI Achievement Scholarship initiative which will fund a scholarship to every high school student to continue to go on to higher education. SVSU is building nursing school partnerships all the way up to Sault Ste Marie. Transit is a high priority on campus.

Christine Maul, Governor's Office

There are two items on the Governor's agenda to be talked about at her State of the State message: expanded earned income tax credit and elimination of the pension tax. Her budget recommendations will come out on March 10th.

Gloria Brooks, Develop Iosco

It has been one year since the rebooting of Develop Iosco which is not formally affiliated with the county EDC. The board just completed the 2023 goal setting: priority is to hire someone (currently all volunteer) for which they will be rolling out membership dues. They need a countywide housing plan, need to address rural health care noting that there is no hospice care in the county.

Steve Erickson, Tuscola County EDC

They have a \$500,000 revitalization grant for small business start ups with a focus on downtowns.

Rich Van Tol, Bay-Arenac ISD

Childcare availability does represent a significant barrier to our talent pool and being able to attract, retain and have productive talent. He mentioned both the Caring For Our Future initiative for which MMDC secured an eight county grant and the MI-Tri Share Initiative.

Bob Balzer, Consumers Energy

Solar energy and clean energy priorities. He is working hard to develop relationships with communities. The everyday talk is about affordability. Consumers Energy granted \$12 million to non-profits and recently announced another \$25 million in grant opportunities. (a handout was provided at the meeting).

6. Review and Approval of the EMCOG Addendum and Updates to the 2021-2025 CEDS: Recovery and Resiliency Strategy and Update of Key Employers – Jane Fitzpatrick, EMCOG

Jane gave a brief overview of the two documents including comments and changes that were made based on the 30 day public review and comment. There was a motion made by Bill Wright to approve the documents as presented and submit them to Department of Commerce EDA. The motion was supported by Zygy Dworzecki. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Connecting Discards, Reuse and STEM - Research was recently conducted within our region to begin identifying the demand for and sources of salvageable materials. - The findings of the research will be presented by Sarah Archer of Iris Waste Diversion Specialists, and other partners:

Sarah summarized the findings of the survey work and what was learned from it. She encouraged looking at The Scrapbox in Ann Arbor which has been in existence for over 30 years. <https://annarbor.scrapcreativereuse.org/> Also Second Chance out of Baltimore which is a reuse center as well as jobs development. <https://www.secondchanceinc.org/> What we learned is that we have pockets of reuse collection in the region but we don't have a way to connect.

8. Integrated Economic & Community Development Activities: EMCOG Staff Written reports were provided. Jane highlighted two items from her report: EDA/Lee Shirey is looking for construction projects for funding; there are very few in Michigan, therefore the probability for funding is high if anyone has a good project; and to note the 2020 Census changes for urban areas in the Region.

9. Good of the Order
No further discussion.

10. Adjourn:

Chair Balzer thanked SVSU for hosting and also providing lunches. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2023 at the Bay County Historical Museum

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE *
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM
(RED Team)

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 20 , 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	Saginaw Valley State University
March 10, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	Bay County Historical Museum
May 12, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined
July 14, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined
September 15, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined
November 10, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined

*** As adopted by the EMCOG Council November 4, 2022**

Contact jfitzpatrick@emcog.org for information.

RED Team meetings begin at noon following 10:00 AM Full Council meetings. For in person meetings, lunch will be available at a cost of \$10.00 per person¹ 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.

NOTE: Members of the public are always welcome at any EMCOG RED Team meeting.

¹ The lunch for the January 20th meeting is compliments of SVSU.