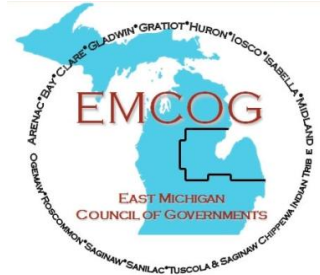


# EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

Meeting Date: Friday, July 12, 2019

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

Location: Warrior Pavilion on Van Etten Lake | 6168 F-41 | Oscoda, MI 48750

Attendees:

<b>RED Team</b>	<b>Bob Balzer, Stephanie Buffman, Tracy Byard, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Gary Kellan, Bill Mrdeza, Tim Muckenthaler, Jay O’Farrell, Erik Rodriguez, Joel Vernier</b>
<b>EMCOG</b>	<b>David Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick, Sue Fortune, Lynn Parker</b>
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Grant Bauman, Region 2 Planning Commission; Ed Bergeron, Roscommon County EDC; Garrett Geer, AKT Peerless; Dakota Hewlett, MDNR; Brad Jenson, Huron Pines Pam O’Laughlin, Middle MI Development Corp; Brice Paulson, USDARD; Sean Pengelly, Lake State Rail; Brian Roberts, Middle MI Development Corporation; Dave Schaeffer, Charter Township of Oscoda; Leslie Sutton, AuSable Township</b>

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair, Bob Balzer who welcomed all. All present introduced them self.

**2. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with no changes.

**3. Review and Approval of March 1, 2019 and May 3, 2019 RED Team Minutes**

The minutes of the March and May 2019 RED Team meetings were approved with no changes.

**4. Chairperson Update: Robert Balzer**

Bob thanked the regional partners and guests for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Dave Schaeffer for hosting the meeting at this beautiful site and Route 23 BBQ for an awesome lunch. Bob noted that Gladwin County and the City of Beaverton are working through the EDA process for an approved grant and will be traveling to EDA, Chicago on August 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the grant award. Regarding economic development Bob gave a MiCareer Quest update: the event is coming up through the GLB and Region 7B Michigan Works partnership. It will be held at SVSU. There are about 10,000 students registered to date.

**5. Oscoda Township Initiatives, Projects and Challenges:** Dave Schaeffer, Superintendent

The Township is aggressively pursuing RRC Certification. A major issue they are working on is addressing housing limitations. Dave also discussed the potential adaptive reuse of facilities inherited from the Air Force Base into a consolidated municipal services center. The feasibility study for this will be completed in September of 2019. Another possible project is the conversion of an old school into up to 39 1-2 bedroom units. The building is in a very walkable area of the downtown. A copy of Dave's powerpoint presentation will be shared with the RED Team and other meeting attendees.

**6. MDNR Update of the Iron Belle Trail – Projects and Funding Opportunities:** Dakota Hewlett, Iron Belle Trail Coordinator, MDNR Parks and Recreation Division.

7.

Dakota provided a powerpoint presentation which will be shared with the RED Team and other attendees. There was much dialog between Dakota and those attending the meeting regarding both details want to lose their own identification/branding. For this reason the IBT signage shares the IBT brand with the local branding. Communities take the lead in designing the signage. Other key points discussed include the need for partnerships to build, own and maintain the trails.

**8. Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Authority Update on Current and Future Initiatives:** Gary Kellan, Director

Gary provided a presentation of the history of the airport site since the closure of the air base to the present time. There are 5 municipal entities within the airport authority which has been successfully operating since 1994 through the leasing of existing buildings as well as the construction of new hangers and other buildings. Each hanger is equal to 150 jobs.

The MI Aerospace Association is looking at sites within the State for a MI Launch Initiative spaceport location. Oscoda Wurtsmith as one of the five potential sites they are looking at.

Gary will provide a copy of his point presentation to share with the RED Team and guests.

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

Jane referred to her July 12, 2019 memorandum to Council and the RED Team that was provided as a handout at the meeting. Highlights include a summary of EDA 2019 Grant Process Pointers, the process for developing a new 5-year CEDS document, the 2019 Prosperity Region 5 grant program information, announcement of a second round of integrated Asset management summits in the fall of 2019 and the upcoming State of the Bay Conference.

**10. Good of the Order**

***Bob Balzer, Gladwin County EDC***

Bob asked those present to identify topics for presentations at future RED Team meetings. Suggestions included a session on how to apply for EDA grants; issues around federal contracting/procurement opportunities; best practices on how to get businesses into your area with perhaps bringing in a

professional site selector to advise on how they do review an consider an area.; and workforce development best practices. Bob requested that if anyone has an idea to contact Jane Fitzpatrick.

***Tracy Byard, Clare County***

The County is looking at an August 4<sup>th</sup> ballot issue to decide if the Board of County Commissioners will take over the County Road Commission.

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

The city is working with a private developer to development the vacant parcel next to city hall. This is becoming a complex and costly project consisting of a 4 story mixed use building to include residential and a grocery store. The cost at the start of the project was \$5.0 million; it is now up to \$ 17.0 million.

***Stephanie Buffman, Arenac County EDC and MichiganWorks***

The County is closing o the new county fairgrounds site today. The location is on US 23 next to the Dollar General.

***Brad Jenson, Huron Pines***

Brad spoke trout streams and the middle branch of the Cedar Rver in which a dam just came out yesterday as part of a restoration project in Gladwin County.

***Shawn Pengelly. Lake State Rail***

Lake State Rail received a matching grant of \$17.4 million to complete 31 miles of rail replacement covering Pinconning and Standish, West Branch along Kawkawlin to Gaylord.

***Brian Roberts, Middle Michigan development Corporation***

Brian spoke of Federal procurement opportunities through MEDC for the following 5 counties: Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot and Isabella.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Bob Balzer at 1:47 pm

**NEXT Meeting: September 13, 2019 at Saganing Tribal Center, Standish, 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	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.