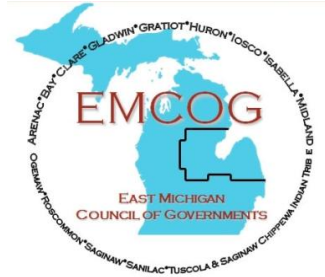


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

3144 DAVENPORT AVENUE, SUITE 200, SAGINAW, MI. 48602
PHONE: 989-797-0800, FAX: 989-797-0896
WWW.EMCOG.ORG



MINUTES OF THE July 15, 2022¹ EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, July 15, 2022 at Noon (Note: lunch at 11:30 am)

Location: Saganing Tribal Center, 5447 Sturman Road, Standish, MI

Attendees:

RED Team Dr. Cathy Baase, Stephanie Buffman, Terri Close, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Jamie Forbes, Kathy Methner, Bill Mrdeza, Jay O'Farrell, Pam O'Laughlin, Rich Van Tol, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright

EMCOG Jane Fitzpatrick, Cody Bodrie, Bill Ernat

Guests George Aultman, Vantage Plastics Inc., Claire Bunker, MISTEM – SVSU; Frank Cloutier, SCIT; John Dantzer, City of West Branch; Timothy Mester, Billings Township; Karen Moore, Gladwin County Commission; Rodney Nanney, Charter Township of Union; Debbie Powell, City of Cass City; Olivia Schmitt, Frankenmuth Chamber & VCB; Chris Shannon, City of Gladwin; Lee Shirey, Department of Commerce EDA; Dale Wiltse, City of Augres; Cassie Zimmerman, Saginaw Future Inc.

- 1. Call to order, Welcome, Introduction of New RED Team Members and Others, Determination of a Quorum:** Jay O'Farrell, Acting RED Team Chair
A quorum was not present. The meeting proceeded without a quorum with no votes on action items. Those present introduced themselves. Jay welcomed John Kaczynski from SVSU who was appointed to the RED Team at the 10:00 am Council meeting.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda** (action item)
No action due to lack of a quorum at the time.
- 3. Review and Approval of May 6, 2022 RED Team Minutes** (action item)
No action due to lack of a quorum at the time. The May 6th minutes will be included on the September RED Team meeting agenda for approval.
- 4. Chairperson Update:** Jay O'Farrell, Acting Red Team Chair
Jay noted that that Bob Balzer, RED Team Chair, was not able to attend the meeting today due to a work-related commitment. Jay noted that he was asked to chair this meeting on

¹ Approved November 4, 2022

Bob's behalf. He welcomed everyone and was glad to see the large turnout on a summertime Friday afternoon.

- 5. Department of Commerce EDA Update and How to Prepare an EDA Grant Application** – Lee Shirey, Economic Development Representative for Michigan. Note: due to some technical issues the “How To” section will be scheduled as a webinar at a later date.

Lee gave a brief overview of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) noting that they take a hands-on approach focusing on business and entrepreneurial needs. They do nothing with residential development. The grant recipients/benefactors must be publically owned. For Fiscal Year 2023 now is the prime time to get a grant application submitted for funding beginning on October 1st. The grant deadlines are rolling deadlines throughout the year. A couple of things to note: there is more coal impacted community funding in FY2023. Also Isabella County remains a persistent poverty entity so there is a focus of making sure EDA funding is utilized there. Grant minimum amounts: for Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) projects grant awards are typically \$25,000 to \$75,000 requiring a 50% local match. In kind can count as local match for these projects. Public Works projects are not less than \$500,000. The average requests are from \$1.7 Million to \$2.0 Million of EDA funding with a 50/50 matching requirement. Lee then relocated to an office space for one-on-one meetings with prospective EDA grant applicants.

- 6. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Update on Governmental Business and Gaming:** Frank Cloutier, Tribal Council Member and Public Relations Director

Frank provided an overview of gambling in the State of Michigan with the legalization of online gambling through companies for which the proceeds leave the State and even the Country while gambling dollars through the tribes stay in Michigan. He discussed the history of the 2% monies. The Tribe's focus through the distribution is on education and youth. They are also committed to their elder population. Mental health issues with youth are becoming a larger focus. Regarding regional issues Frank discussed the recent challenge with regarding the Little Rivers Casino proposal to establish a casino south of tribal property. This proposal would have violated the tribal/state gaming compacts and the historical area of another tribe currently seeking federal recognition. The SCIT is thankful that the Governor recently rejected the proposal.

- 7. Connecting Discards, Reuse, and STEM – EMCOG and Regional Stakeholders Grant via MSU University Center EDA Funding** – Jane Fitzpatrick, EMCOG and Rich Van Tol, Bay-Arenac ISD.

Jane and Rich gave a brief overview of the project which is based on expressed needs within the region. They discussed examples from other areas of the State that could be replicated here. The scope of the grant is to conduct research to determine opportunities for diversion of discarded materials used in the built environment and in the manufacturing process in the region. There are a number of partners for this initiative that will be providing support for the work. In addition to conducting the project and

market feasibility analysis the findings will be presented at a regional workshop late in 2022. The data and analysis outcome of the work completed as part of this project will be the basis for an EDA grant application to develop a strategic plan. In addition to EMCOG and Bay-Arenac ISD, other partners include Iris Waste Diversion, Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative and Clare-Gladwin RESD.

8. Integrated Economic & Community Development Activities: Jane Fitzpatrick and Cynthia Edwards

In order to have time for Partner Updates Jane Fitzpatrick briefly noted that the report was distributed with the agenda and is also posted on the EMCOG website as part of the July 15th agenda packet and to please feel free to contact her with questions and comments. She did note that there is an item missing from the report - the 2022 State of the Bay Conference coming up on September 22nd. It is a one day conference that will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bay City. EMCOG is a sponsor and Jane is on the planning committee for the event. Registration is open. Jane will send out a link.

9. Reports from Other EMCOG Staff: Cody Brodie and Bill Ernat

Bill provide a brief summary of his written report that was included in the agenda packet. Cody provided an update of activities in lieu of a written report. The discussion with those in attendance was focused on the status of the Bay City bridges, both the future toll bridges and the improvements to the Lafayette Bridge.

10. Partner Updates

Joel Vernier, Secord Township and Four Lakes Task Force

Joel provided an overview of the public outreach and engagement regarding the actions relating to the funding of the dam and lake restoration. There have been 20 meetings at the four lakes to offer residents and opportunity to come in and talk and hear about efforts to secure funding and permitting for lake bottom maintenance, dam repairs and lake restoration. They have generated over 16,000 letters of support from residents and secured a \$2.0 million grant from the Governor. Joel also provided an overview of the Tuesday evening joint Gladwin and Midland County Commissioners during which the assessments for lake bed maintenance were approved.

Rich Van Tol – Bay-Arenac ISD

Rich gave an update on the Tri Share Initiative noting that A.L.I.C.E. families do not qualify for childcare assistance. This cost is being mitigated by having employers provide assistance to families for childcare as a employee benefit. This is the first time in the State of Michigan. Vantage Plastics now has made childcare a benefit of employment. The Tri Share program is just as the name implies - the employer covers 1/3rd, the State covers 1/3rd and the employee pays 1/3rd of the cost of

childcare. This program is now available in 56 counties in Michigan and is included in the budget signed by the Governor for FY2023.

11. Good of the Order

There were no further comments from those in attendance.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the RED Team meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.

2022 RED TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 14 , 2022	No Meeting; the RED Team is working on the CEDS annual report		
March 4, 2022	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual
May 6, 2022	Full RED Team	Noon	Riverwalk Place Gladwin
July 15, 2022	Full RED Team	Noon	Saganing Tribal Center Standish
September 16, 2022	Full RED Team	Noon	TBD
November 4, 2022	Full RED Team	Noon	TBD

*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 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.