

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the July 24, 2018 Meeting of the RPI-5 Strategic Management Team

Date, Time and Location:

July 24, 2018 | 10:00 a.m.

Michigan Works - Harrison | 402 N. First Street | Harrison, MI 48625 | Office: 989-539-2173

SMT Participants:

Natasha Allen	Region 7B Michigan Works
Doug Bush	Gratiot-Isabella, RESD
Jennifer Carroll	Delta College
Scott Govitz	Mid Michigan College
Steve Jonas	Saginaw Future, Inc.
Melissa Kesterson	Midland Community Foundation
Jim McBryde	Middle Michigan Development Corporation
Pam O’Laughlin	Middle Michigan Development Corporation
Christopher Rishko	Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works
Erik Rodriguez	Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Lindsey Rotarius	Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Jim Wheeler	Greater Gratiot Development Corporation

Agency Representatives

Rex Anslie	MDNR
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Guests

David Haag	City of Auburn
Heath Kaplan	City of Beaverton
Greg LaMarr	Saginaw Future, Inc.
Amanda Losardo	Village of Farwell

EMCOG

Jane Fitzpatrick	Program Manager – Economic Development/RPI
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AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Meeting was called to order by Jane Fitzpatrick at 10:04 am. Introductions were made of those present and those calling in.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

3. 2017 Mini Grant Project Update: – Heath Kaplan, City Manager, City of Beaverton

The City of Beaverton DDA was the recipient of a PR-5 2017 mini grant totaling \$18,262 for the development of the Beaverton Downtown Development Ross Lake Trailhead, a connecting hiking, biking and water trails from Beaverton to Gladwin and other areas as part of a countywide walking/bike path asset. Heath will be providing a status report on this project.

Heath Kaplan, Beaverton City Manager provided a status report of the project. He distributed a copy of the latest engineering design for the project which they are hoping to start soon. A permit from MDEQ was just filed. The project should be ready to go once this permit is issue. Heath discussed all of the partnerships that made this project happen including support through foundations in Midland. The project consists of an 8 mile trail connecting the communities of Beaverton and Gladwin with headwaters along the route. Rex Anslie indicated that they are pursuing additional support from other foundations such as the Morley Foundation as this is a regional amenity. Heath thanked EMCOG and PR-5 for providing funding support for this project.

4. Recommendations for funding of the PR-5 2018 Mini & Micro Grant Applications: Jane Fitzpatrick and PR-5 2018 Grant Review Sub Committee

Jane provided an overview of the sub committee's recommendations. A motion was made by Scott Govitz and supported by Melissa Kesterson to support the subcommittee recommendations for funding mini and micro grants. The motion carried.

5. 2019 Regional Prosperity Initiative Status: Jane Fitzpatrick

Jane referenced the memo that was included in the agenda packet and indicated that updates would be provided in August and September.

6. Other Project Updates from Team Members and Guests:

Jim Wheeler, Greater Gratiot Development Corporation

The Zeeland Farm Services processing plant is underway with 260 workers initially moving up to 400 when fully operational. October of 2019 is the target date for operations. A number of solar initiatives are being looked at by both DTE and Consumers. In general the economy is looking good, the pontoon manufacturers cannot keep up with demand and finding good employees continues to be a challenge.

Doug Bush, Gratiot-Isabella RESD

He is keeping an eye on the Marshal Plan which has dollars set aside to help the employee pipeline and meet employer needs. There is very little guidance from the State at this point which is not a bad thing. Basically the state is saying here is some money to help you address concerns, they are not going to tell you how to do it. There is money to create and demonstrate something that can be replicated if it works. The RESD is creating a talent consortium of education plus two businesses, community colleges, and K-12 membership.

Scott Govitz, Mid Michigan College

Regarding the Marshal Plan they seem to be in a holding pattern with the ISDs. They want to get a large group together from the RESDs and others to coordinate and plan. Mid Michigan College has changed its name, removing "community" from the name. The college is undergoing significant reconstruction at the Harrison campus including upgrades to HVAC and modernization. They started the Verizon Girls grant yesterday. It consists of a 3 week summer camp with STEM related classes. There are 60+ students enrolled for all day every day. The participants are primarily from Clare and Gladwin counties.

Rex Anslie, MDNR

He attended a Rifle River log jam meeting with Senators. This situation will continue to happen as Ash trees continue to die. Other rivers will have this issue. Another issue is chronic wasting disease. Isabella County is in the new management zone where there is enhanced surveillance for deer. Another issue in the region: the U.S. Gypsum mine expansion request to purchase 500+ acres from the State in Iosco County. A decision will be made in December. They hope to purchase 2,000 acres as mitigation. Another Issue: he was contact by Spice Engineering regarding the Arenac Trail group and the Iron Bell Trail. There is a concern about safety if it runs along US23. Most do not want this to happen but want the trail segment to be the same as constructed in Iosco County

Erik Rodriquez, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

The ribbon cutting for phase 2 of the Mid-Michigan Trails will take place in Shepherd next week. The Tribe is working with local officials on the wild rice on 920 acres at Tawas Lake. The State is looking at wild rice protection/management. They are also working with state on Supreme Court decision on sports gaming. The 34th annual Powwow is coming up this weekend. Construction is going well at both properties: the Soaring Eagle expansions soft opening will be in either August or September. Regarding the Saganing Eagle hotel, a topping off ceremony was held on July 13th. These projects will bring 200+ more jobs to Arenac County and 68 more jobs to Mt Pleasant.

Jim McBryde, Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Jim provided n update on the status of the US 127 Study: he met with the MDOT Director Kirk Steudle, regarding the report and can say that it is now on the MDOT radar screen. Jim and Jim Wheeler are also present the study at the Michigan Transportation Association Conference tomorrow in Detroit

Chris Rishko, GLB Michigan Works

Regarding the Marshall plan, there is a lot going on with \$15M in funding available. The MiSTEM initiative has selected a new director, Claire Bunker for this region.

Pam O’Laughlin, Middle Michigan Development Corporation

She reported on Clare County activities and initiatives. The Clare County leadership group is picking up and looking for people to sign on. If you or anyone you know would be interested please let Pam know. A 52 acre piece of property in Harrison (DEQ clean-up site) is being re-engineered for infrastructure with a commitment to build a 20 apartment assisted living facility with plans to expand to another 20 apartments.. Also a senior services building adjacent to assisted living facility is being talked about.

Heath Kaplan, City of Beaverton

St Gobain is expanding their property here and eventually creating up to 200 jobs with a \$20M expansion project.

David Haag, City of Auburn

David introduced himself. He is the former treasurer of City of Gladwin. The city recently added a pavilion along US10 to host a farmers market. A market manager has been hired for market days on Thursdays and Saturdays. They are now looking at phases to improve the road that runs along it which is currently a dirt road. To the east of the pavilion there is a pond. Amenities that are being added include an ADA dock and a gazebo.

Natasha Allen, Michigan Works Region 7B

Regarding the Marshall Plan – there are extra points of you bring Michigan Works into the application.

Steve Jonas and Greg LaMarr, Saginaw Future Inc.

Steve and Greg gave an update of the current talent initiative and thanked the Prosperity Region for funding their mini grant. A website has been established and they are now building it along with a social media presence. They are working with alumni associations at CMU, SVSU, Alma, MMC, Davenport, Delta and Northwood; all Chambers of Commerce in the region plus currently 24 employers. The coming home event at SVSU will be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving with employers, alumni, speakers, a job fair but it will be more of a networking event. They are targeting graduates who have expressed an interest to stay/come back to the region. This will not be a one-time event. They are applying to MEDC for 2019 funding to have the event in Mt Pleasant next year.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm

NOTE: Next meeting is August 28, 2018 at the Midland Michigan Works Office

The Strategic Management Team is the RPI-5 Tier 1 Collaborative. A collaborative consists of collaborative organization:

1. A networked and non-hierarchical organization structure;
2. A culture of openness, honesty and trust, and
3. Engaged and valued stakeholders ⁱ

**2018 East Central Michigan Prosperity Region 5
Strategic Management Team Meeting Schedule**

MEETING DATE	TYPE	TIME	HOST/LOCATION
January 23, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Full Meeting Canceled
February 27, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Middle Michigan Development Corporation Mt Pleasant
March 27, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Full Meeting Canceled (sub committees will be meeting in March)
April 24, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Clare-Gladwin RESD
May 22, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Mid Michigan Community College Mt Pleasant Campus
June 26, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Full Meeting Canceled (sub committees will be meeting in June)
July 24, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Michigan Works Harrison
August 28, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Michigan Works Midland
September 25, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Michigan Works Gladwin
October 23, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Beaverton Activity Center
November 27, 2018	RPI-5 Strategic Management Team	10:00 am	Saginaw Future Inc. Saginaw
December , 2018			No Meeting

NOTE: Members of the public are always welcome at any Strategic Management Team meeting

ⁱ <http://community.aiim.org/blogs/angela-ashenden/2013/04/16/what-is-a-collaborative-organisation>