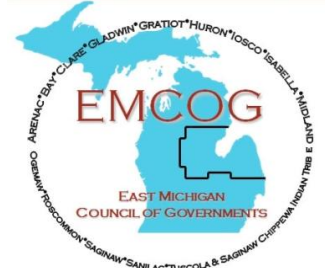


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE March 4, 2022

EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

Approved May 6, 2022

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, March 4, 2022 at Noon

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

Attendees:

RED Team	Natasha Allen, Brenda Bachelder, Bob Balzer, Ed Bergeron, Gloria Brooks, Stephanie Buffman, Tracy Byard, Terri Close, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Tony Fox, Scott Govitz, Eric Johnson, Steve Jonas, Jim McBryde, Kathy Methner, Bill Mrdeza, Tim Nieporte, Michael Nunneley, Pam O’Laughlin, Carl Osentoski, Eric Rodriguez, Annette Rummel, Rich Van Tol, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright, Kacey Zehner
EMCOG	Jane Fitzpatrick, Bill Ernat, Cody Bodrie
Guests	Heather Bauman, The W.E.L.L.; Sharon Campbell, City of Beaverton; Richard Castle, Consumers Energy; Diane Fong, Bay Area Community Foundation; Jim Hergott, Arenac County Commission; Adrianna Jordan, Bridgeport Township; Mark Justin, Gladwin County; Matt Lang, MI Works 7B-Gladwin County/Gladwin County EDC; James Miner, Iosco County Commission; Karen Moore, Gladwin County Commission; Penny Payea, MI Works 7B-Ogemaw County; James Reaume, Midland Business Alliance; Lee Shirey, EDA – MI Representative; Brian Smith, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe; Dale Wiltse, City of Au Gres

- 1. Call to order, Welcome, Introduction of New RED Team Members and Others, Determination of a Quorum:** Robert Balzer, RED Team Chair
The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. A quorum was present. Due to the large number of attendees general introductions were not made except for the newly appointed voting members of the RED Team who were present: Gloria Brooks: Develop Iosco; Tim Nieporte: Isabella County; Erik Rodriguez/Brian Smith-Alternate: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (replacing Frank Cloutier).
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda (action item)**
The agenda was approved with the following change: Discussion Item 8 is tabled until the May 6th meeting.

3. Review and Approval of September 10 & November 5, 2021 RED Team Minutes (action item)

Motion by Dworzecki, support by McBryde to approve the minutes as presented to include the correction of a typographical error in the September 10th minutes. Motion carried.

4. Chairperson Update: Robert Balzer

Bob noted the newly appointed RED Team members and that for in some cases an alternate was also appointed. Jane Fitzpatrick will be contacting all appointed RED Team members to offer each the option of adding a designated alternate in order to maintain quorum and for voting purposes. He thanked all that were in attendance and hoped that that they take part in the open topic roundtable discussions at the end of the meeting.

5. U.S. Dept. of Commerce EDA Update: Lee Shirey, Economic Development Representative for Michigan

Lee discussed the status of the EDA ARPA Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). For the Travel and Tourism NOFO the projects must be linked to high wage jobs and at this point he cannot tell if there is a future for this funding opportunity beyond the ARPA NOFO. The ARPA Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) & Public Works (PW) NOFO closes on 3/31/22. This EAA and PW funding is a standard EDA program that renews every October. Regarding the regular EAA-PW NOFOs (post ARPA and March 31st) – EDA will be shifting back to the regular EDA allocations. Note that the 80/20 funding ratio continues through the current year EDA allocations (9/30/22) so Lee encourages those working on applications through the regular EDA funding opportunities get their applications in as soon as possible. After 9/30/22 EDA will be reverting back to the regular match of 50/50 (or 60/40; 70/30 if eligible) On a final note Lee informed the group that EDA will be releasing new 900 forms in the next month or so which will require some additional training. Lee will coordinate with Jane Fitzpatrick regarding the training in the region.

6. MEDC's Regional Talent Innovation Grant Administered through Middle Michigan Development Corporation: Pam O'Laughlin, Director of Business & Economic Services-MMDC Clare County.

Middle MI Development Corporation (MMDC) applied for and was awarded this training grant on behalf of the 8 County MEDC Region 5 (Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties). The grant includes 33 different training opportunities. The application process is going live on the MMDC website <https://mmdc.org/> on March 15th for individuals to register. The grant covers training, classroom materials for the completion, and receipt of a certificate. It is a first come, first serve application process but 51% of participants must be in each county's low/moderate income category. An employer can identify both existing and potential employees that they want to go through the training. They are targeting a minimum of 200 people for training in the 8 county region. This program also

includes funds for support costs such as childcare or transportation. Bob Balzer congratulated Pam for spearheading this project.

7. Consumers Energy Clean Energy Plan: Richard Castle & Bob Balzer, Consumers Energy

Bob Balzer gave the opening remarks stating that the goal of Consumers Energy (CE) is to supply cleaner energy faster to our communities. He referenced the elimination of coal burning plants to supply energy – the original plan was to accomplish this by 2040; the current time frame is 2025. Customer efficiencies and energy waste reduction are big parts of their plan. Regarding power outages they have 3 goals: (1) limit outages to no more than 100,000 population at a time (2) provide power restoration within 24 hours, and (3) ensure that no customer has more than 3 outages a year. Bob then turned the discussion over to Richard Castle to discuss solar energy.

Rich stated that his goal today is to make us more aware of the CE transition from fossil fuels to renewable and what the process is to move forward. CE needs favorable zoning and positive community sentiment. They are looking for large parcels of 200+ acres as close to the transmission lines as possible. The property needs to be open, flat and dry with no trees such as sites previously used for farmland or properties that have environmental issues such as Brownfields. He noted that there are two types of projects: their own CE projects and a third party developer project and provided some explanation of the RFP process for both.

There was a very robust Q & A discussion following the presentation.

8. Discussion Item - 2021-2025 CEDS SWOT Review : Jane Fitzpatrick, EMCOG

As noted during the agenda approval, this item is tabled until the May 6th RED Team meeting which is planned to be an in person meeting and more conducive to this discussion.

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

Jane noted that Cynthia Edwards is not present as she is traveling to Michigan to close on a house purchase. Jane summarized the contents of the written report prepared by her and Cynthia and answered questions.

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

Bill and Cody provided highlights of their respective written reports and answered questions. Bill also provided some information about an upcoming FEMA funding webinar that is available to the EMCOG participating members. Cody's departure from EMCOG (today is his last day) was acknowledged and he was sent off with glowing comments and best wishes.

11. Partner Updates

Eric Johnson, Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District (RES D)

The RESD is holding a reverse job fair where students will have examples of their work and demonstrations of what they can do. One hundred and ninety students will be participating and about seventy employers attending. The hope is that graduating students stay local. The event is at the John C. Magnus Center on March 15th.

Joel Vernier, Secord Township

During 2021 32 people were lost in the woods in Gladwin County. The fire chief in Secord Township secured a grant through the USDA and the Midland Community Foundation for equipment to aid in search and rescue including a drone with thermal detection capabilities.

Rich Van Tol, Bay-Arenac ISD

The Michigan Tri Share initiative (childcare support) is significantly expanding from 50 to 83 counties. Also the eligibility cap has increased to up to 300% of the poverty level per family which equates to \$83,000 income for a family of four. This initiative is seen as a way to attract talent to businesses in the area.

Gloria Brooks, Develop Iosco

Develop Iosco has pushed the reboot button. They have contracted with a company to enhance their website. A four week marketing blueprint project was just done and the preliminary results came out yesterday. They will be hosting quarterly community meetings and she will send the invitation to EMCOG to share with the RED team.

Heather Bauman, The W.E.L.L. Outreach

Heather was recently hired by Vantage Plastics to head their non-profit Weaving Effective Leadership & Life Skills (W.E.L.L.) Outreach. There are 3 primary initiatives – housing, childcare supply, and communications and finding gaps and filling them. <https://www.vantageplastics.com/2021/09/29/new-executive-director-to-lead-the-well-outreach/>

12. Good of the Order

There were no further updates from attendees.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, Tracy Byard moved and Ziggy Dworzecki supported a motion to adjourn. The RED Team meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm

Next Meeting: May 6 2022.

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	TBD
July 15, 2022	Full RED Team	Noon	TBD
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. 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.