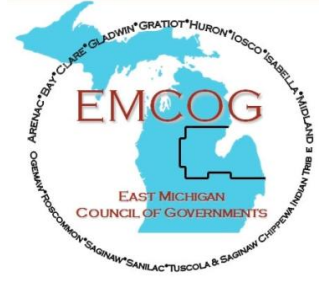


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM Approved May 7, 2021

Meeting Date: Friday, March 5, 2021

Meeting Time: Noon

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

Attendees:

RED Team	Bob Balzer, Ed Bergeron, Mary Bickel, Tracy Byard, Terri Close, Frank Cloutier, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Jamie Forbes, Tony Fox, Meaghan Gass, Scott Govitz, Eric Johnson, Steve Jonas, Heath Kaplan, Trevor Keyes, Kathy Methner, Bill Mrdeza, Donald J. O’Farrell, Pam O’Laughlin, Carl Ostentoski, Amy Roten, David Rowley, Rich Van Tol, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright, Kacey Zehner (27 out of 36 members present)
EMCOG	Jane Fitzpatrick, Bill Ernat, Cynthia Edwards
Guests	Chelsea Beckman, MEDC; John Dantzer, City of West Branch; Dylan Hellus, Governor’s Office; Riley Hupfer, SVSU; Gary Kellan, Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Authority; Tom Miller Jr., Saginaw Future, Inc.; Michael Mitchell, Oscoda Township; Kati Mori, Middle MI Development Corp.; Karen Moore, Gladwin County Commission; Tim Muckenthaler, Roscommon County Commission; Lee Shirey, Dept of Commerce EDA; Ryan Smith, Bay Area Transit Study; Dan Tighe, City of Caseville; Nicole Wilson, Midland Business Alliance; Tim Wolff, Village of Lake Isabella

- 1. Call to order, Welcome and Introductions:** Robert Balzer, RED Team Chair
 The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm. RED Team members, guests and staff introduced themselves. A special introduction was made – Cynthia Edwards, recently hired by EMCOG to assist with work on the COVID-19 Economic Development Strategy, providing data analyses and mapping support.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda** (action item)
 Zygy Dworzecki made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; supported by Steve Erickson. The agenda was approved with no changes.

3. Review and Approval of January 15, 2021 RED Team Minutes (action item)

A spelling error in the name of a RED Team member was noted. Zygy Dworzecki made a motion to approve the minutes to include the spelling correction; supported by Steve Erickson. The motion passed with no opposed.

4. Chairperson Update: Robert Balzer

Bob shared his feelings of frustration with COVID and the flooding but has made a commitment to be positive and part of the solution. He is working with those who can help to do what we can including local officials. Some good news through all of this is that Saint-Gobain in Beaverton has announced a big expansion even in the midst of the pandemic, which will bring 150 new positions to Gladwin County. www.saint-gobain.com

Bob also encouraged sharing what you are doing with EMCOG, especially regarding the CEDS Strategies to wrap up our regional efforts.

5. Department of Commerce EDA Update - Lee Shirey, Economic Development Representative for Michigan

Lee introduced himself noting that he was born and raised in West Branch. Lee is the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Representative for Michigan. EDA is the only federal agency dedicated to economic development. Michigan is part of Region 5, Chicago, which consists of seven states. EDA is anticipating \$50 to \$80 million in grant money for Michigan out of the second stimulus package. This package includes tourism funding through EDA. He does not yet know the criteria for these projects or when the NOFA will be released. Lee encouraged everyone to stay in touch with EMCOG or directly with Lee in preparation.

6. SBDC Update on Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) - Tony Fox, Regional Director, SBDC Mid-Michigan

Tony provided an overview of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, noting that there are two distinct programs - one from the May, 2020 flood disaster (closing date is April 9th) and the other relating to COVID-19 (closing date is December 31st.) He also provided information on the Paycheck Protection Program, the Shuttered Venue operations grants, and the SBA debt relief program which covers existing SBA loans or six months of P & I payments. A copy of his powerpoint presentation was shared with participants.

7. Governor Office Update - Dylan Hellus, Bay Regional Liaison for Governor Whitmer

Dylan gave a summary report on the Executive Budget including the following:

- School Aid increased funding per student plus a one-time funding for best practices from virtual learning.
- Health Budget recommendation includes direct care wage increases of up to \$2.00 per hour and \$370 Million for expansion of childcare option
- Infrastructure: \$300 million for local bridge funding (repair/replace); \$290 million for the MI Clean Water Plan; \$40 million in funding for high water and resilient

infrastructure for coastal flooding, erosion, storm water erosion; \$15 million in a dam safety emergency fund.

- \$200 million for different avenues of talent development
- \$70 million to communities that have lost income tax revenue from people working at home. The City of Saginaw is the only local government impacted in our region.
- \$5 million in grants to find and train first responders.

Dylan noted that we should reach out to our representatives to let them know what in the budget we support.

8. CEDS Implementation Update – Jane Fitzpatrick

EMCOG is developing an implementation matrix based on the input from the implementation workshop held in January plus other recent initiatives. There are also a number of grant applications submitted through various programs which will implement the CEDS for which EMCOG provided letters of support

9. Integrated Economic & Community Development Activities: EMCOG Staff

Staff referred to the written reports provided prior to the meeting and took questions from attendees.

10. Good of the Order

Rich Van Tol, Bay-Arenac ISD

Rich provided information in the chat about the recent grant application for the Michigan Tri-Share program for childcare. The application covers an eight county area with the Saginaw ISD as the fiduciary and functioning as the hub. There will be a focus on the ALICE populations. He should know pretty soon if funded as a pilot project.

Eric Johnson, Clare-Gladwin RESD

The RESD with MiWorks is working on an apprenticeship grant award with a focus to graduate and stay local.

Bill Wright, STARS and Member at Large

The STARS fixed route transit started up again as of Monday and expanded the network from 8 to 10 routes.

Dave Rowley, MSU Extension

Dave reminded all that the MSU Extension Land Use Team resiliency webinar series starts on March 17th and will run for six weeks. Registrations are still open.

Heath Kaplan, City of Beaverton

Heath expressed gratitude to Dave Engelhardt, recently retired from EMCOG.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the RED Team was adjourned at 1:50 pm

2021 RED TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 15, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
March 5, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
May 7, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
July 9, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*
September 10, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	TBD
November 5, 2021	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.