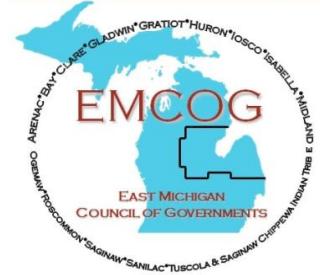


# EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

Meeting Date: Friday, March 6, 2020

Meeting Time: Noon

Location: Historical Museum of Bay County | 321 Washington Ave. | Bay City, MI 48708

<http://www.bchsmuseum.org/>

### Attendees:

<b>RED Team</b>	<b>Bob Balzer, Ed Bergeron, Stephanie Buffman, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Meaghan Gass, Heath Kaplan, Gary Kellan, Kristi Kozubal, Katherine Methner, Jay O’Farrell, Robert Redmond, Stacie Scherman, Chris Shannon, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright</b>
<b>EMCOG</b>	<b>David Engelhardt, Jane Fitzpatrick</b>
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Steve Jonas, Saginaw Future Inc.; Frank Cloutier, SCIT; Wanda Dziwura, Strong Towns; Ken Malkin, Monitor Township; Spencer Verhagen, Senator Stabenow’s Office; Melissa Mora, USDA Rural Development; Terri Close, Hampton Township; Diane Fong, Bay Area Community Foundation; Mike Jamrong, Bay Veterans Foundation; Lee Shirey, Department of Commerce, EDA; Robert Stalker, Municipal Mgmt Consulting, Dylan Hellus, Governor Whitmer’s Office; Jackie Morgan, USDA-Rural Development</b>

- 1. Call to order, Welcome and Introductions:** Robert Balzer, RED Team Chair. Sam Fitzpatrick, Education Coordinator for the Historical Museum of Bay County welcomed the attendees and gave a brief overview of the exhibits in the Museum as well as the history of the building itself. He also offered a tour after the meeting for those who wish to participate.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** the agenda was approved with the following changes: The City of Bay City Initiatives was removed from the agenda due to the City Manager being unable to attend and replaced with a brief “snapshot” discussion by Gary Kellan of activities regarding the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Space-Port initiative.
- 3. Review and Approval January 17, 2019 RED Team Minutes:** the minutes were approved with no changes.

**4. Chairperson Update:** Robert Balzer

Commissioner Vernier and Bob have started a committee for census participation promotion in Gladwin County. The Gladwin County branding initiative was kicked off last night (March 5<sup>th</sup>): “Michigan’s Backyard”. Billboards will be going up in April. He encouraged the inclusion of younger people in our decision making at the local level...pointing out the age cohort of the people attending this meeting as an example of this need. He also announced the upcoming CEDS development meetings next week and urged participation.

**5. Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Update – Gary Kellan**

Gary gave a brief overview of the ongoing interactions with the Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association regarding possible selection of this site for the Michigan Launch Initiative vertical launch and horizontal launch operations. This type of operation would not have any more impact on his facilities than any other jet operation. They are over the first hurdle regarding horizontal launch operations. The next phase is an investigation of the feasibility of actually doing this type of operation at the site. GPS Next Generation will require many satellites in the future.

**6. Bay Veterans Foundation Workshop and Learning Center – Mike Jamrog, Bay Veterans Foundation:**

Mike gave a presentation of the redevelopment of the site for the facility location and development of programs and services and lessons learned from the people hired to do the remodeling work. In 2018 EMCOG provided funding through the RPI-5 Mini Grant program in support of the creation of a wood shop/work space in which veterans can learn basic woodworking & other skills (metal working, clay casting, carving, sculpting, etc). Space will also be accessible for regular BP screening & vaccination clinics. A VA representative will have space to provide information, claims processing & other services. In 2019 EMCOG also funded a small \$1,000 grant to provide focused marketing to recruit women veterans to utilize the learning center.

**7. Department of Commerce EDA Opportunity Zones and Other Programs Funding and Resources:** Lee Shirey, Department of Commerce EDA Representation for Michigan.

Lee started with a discussion of the status of the EDA budget situation - the President’s budget calls for the elimination of EDA. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> time since the 1970’s. EDA investment priorities fall under 5 core areas: economic resiliency; critical infrastructure (such as broadband); opportunity zones; workforce training and support; and exports. There is still quite a bit of public works funding available. USDA loans are an eligible match for EDA grant funding. Lee also briefly discussed a new program: Build to Scale – with a focus on entrepreneurial development, commercialization tech transfer, venture development, a capital challenge to support entrepreneurial funding gaps. This includes funding for people; a paid staff to work over a 3 year timeframe. Lee also did a brief presentation on the StatsAmerica website as a resource for Opportunity Zones information, grant applications and distress indicators. <http://www.statsamerica.org/>

- 8. Integrated Economic Development Activities:** EMCOG Staff (highlights of written reports sent out prior to the meeting).  
Staff referenced written reports that were provided with the agenda packet and/or distributed at the meeting. There were no questions.

**9. Good of the Order**

*Meaghan Gass, Sea Grant Extension Educator, MSU Extension*

Meaghan provided information about an opportunity for middle and high school educators to apply for a \$2,000 stipend DOW Fellowship for teaching sustainability – food, water, plastics. This opportunity is for the 2020-2021 school year.

*Jamie Forbes, STARS*

STARS is providing free rides on election day as well as on designated census day activities.

*Katy Methner, Independent Consultant*

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Mock Interview Day is coming up. This covers Clare, Gladwin, Isabella and Gratiot counties. Over 300 kids will be participating along with 60+ volunteers. Kids do get hired as a result of this event.

**10. Adjourn**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm. A complimentary tour of the museum was provided immediately after the RED Team meeting for those who stayed to participate.

**NEXT Meeting: May 1, 2020 at Riverwalk Place, City of Gladwin**

## 2020 **RED TEAM** MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 17, 2020	Full RED Team	Noon	Andersen Enrichment Center Saginaw, MI
March 6, 2020	Full RED Team	Noon	Historical Museum of Bay County Bay City, MI
May 1, 2020	Joint Council & RED Team	10:00 am	Riverwalk Place Gladwin, MI
July 10, 2020	Full RED Team	Noon	Warrior Pavilion on Van Etten Lake Oscoda Township, MI
September 11, 2020	Full RED Team	Noon	Beaverton Activity Center Beaverton, MI
November 6, 2020	Full RED Team	Noon	City of Cass City

RED Team meetings begin at Noon following 10:00 a.m. Full Council meetings (Note: the exception is the May 1<sup>st</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.