

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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APPROVED¹ MINUTES OF THE May 6, 2022 EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, May 6, 2022 at Noon (Note: lunch at 11:30 am)

Location: Riverwalk Place, 777 W. Cedar Ave., Gladwin, MI 48624

Attendees:

RED Team **Natasha Allen, Brenda Bachelder, Bob Balzer, Heather Bauman, Gloria Brooks, Stephanie Buffman, Tracy Byard, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Jamie Forbes, Tony Fox, Meaghan Gass, Scott Govitz, Eric Johnson, Kathy Methner, Bill Mrdeza, Jay O'Farrell, Pam O'Laughlin, Annette Rummel, Heidi Tracy, Rich Van Tol, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright**

EMCOG **Jane Fitzpatrick and Cody Bodrie**

Guests **Maja Bolanowska, Midland Area Transportation Study; Claire Bunker, MISTEM – SVSU; Sharon Campbell, City of Beaverton; Eric Dunton, Shiawassee national Wildlife Refuge; Brenda Flory, MEDC; Joe Frost, MEDC; Kimberly Hines, City of Beaverton; Samantha Jones, Partnership Network; Mark Justin, Gladwin County; Sarah Kile, NE Michigan 211; Matt Lang, MI Works 7B-Gladwin County/Gladwin County EDC; Timothy Mester, Billings Township; Karen Moore, Gladwin County Commission; Rodney Nanney, Charter Township of Union; Bob North, Gladwin County Emergency Mgmt.; Penny Payea, MI Works 7B-Ogemaw County; Matt Schnepf, MI State Police; Bill Schutt, Saginaw Township; Tony Stamas, Midland Business Alliance**

- 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 12:08 pm. A quorum of RED Team members was present. Introductions of all attendees were made including a welcome to Heather Bauman, The W.E.L.L. Outreach as the latest appointment to the RED Team.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda (action item)**
A motion to approve the agenda with the revision to the order of presenters in item 5 was made by Dworzcki and supported by O'Farrell. The motion passed.

¹ November 4, 2022

3. **Review and Approval of March 4, 2022 RED Team Minutes** (action item)
Motion by Dworzecki, supported by Mrdeza to approved the minutes as provided. The motion passed.
4. **Chairperson Update:** Robert Balzer
Bob mentioned the recent meeting with the Lt. Governor at The Depot in Standish noting that we will probably not have the level of funding in the future that we are getting right now. An issue is having the capacity to apply for the grant opportunities. MiWorks Region 7B is going to conduct a grant writing class and develop a contacts list for resources. Also he spoke about the Consumers Energy People, Prosperity and Planet funding program and the tree planting program. Information will be sent to EMCOG for distribution. Bob also noted that this month is Mental Health Awareness Month and we are also entering into the orange barrel/traffic cone season.
5. **Disaster Recovery and Resiliency - Two Years After the May, 2020 Floods**
 - a. **Update on May 2020 Five County Disaster and Funding Opportunities:**
Matt Schnepf, Recovery Unit Mgr, MSP Emergency Mgmt & Homeland Security
 - b. **Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Resiliency, Flooding Capacity & Restoration**
Eric Dunton, Wildlife Biologist
 - c. **Gladwin County Disaster Response and Lessons Learned**
Robert North, Gladwin County Emergency Manager and Scott Govitz, Mid Michigan College as a member of the May, 2020 Immediate and Long Term Response Team
 - d. **Midland Business Alliance Post Disaster Watershed Resiliency Initiatives**
Tony Stamas, President and CEO

The presentations covered many aspects of both the May, 2020 5 disaster and work that is being done and still needs to be done two years later plus planning for the future. Each presenter who prepared a powerpoint presentation and/or videos will provide these to Jane Fitzpatrick for distribution. Joel Vernier gave a brief overview of the status of work with the Four Lakes Task Force at the end of the presentations.
6. **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 May 6th agenda packet and to please feel free to contact her with questions and comments.
7. **Reports from Other EMCOG Staff:** Cody Brodie and Bill Ernat
In order to have time for Partner Updates it was noted that the reports were distributed and if anyone has questions or concerns to contact Cody or Bill directly.

8. Partner Updates

Eric Johnson, Clare-Gladwin RESD

The RESD is working in partnership with Michigan Works with a focus on early childhood and preschool programs.

Natasha Allen, Michigan Works Association

Natasha is now the director of training for the Association and encourages all to become an association member. She encouraged those at the meeting to look at the trainings offered which are centered around workforce development and not all services are training related.

Brenda Bachelder, Roscommon EDC and MIWorks Region 7B

They are partnering with the GLB Michigan Works MICareerQuest on October 28th at SVSU. They will be focusing on the same careers as last year; 4,700 students registered from 11 counties with a focus on 10th graders. This program helps kids stay local. <https://micareerquestmm.com/>

Meaghan Gass, MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant

Meghan mentioned the Community Education Programs and referenced the <https://www.michiganseagrants.org/> website for watersheds in your district resources. They are funding a study for looking at reefs out in the Saginaw Bay which serve as spawning grounds for Walleye.

Stephanie Buffman, Arenac County EDC

They applied for and were selected to be one of six applicants to be part of a rural childcare innovation program. They will receive \$240,000 to address this need in the manufacturing cluster in Arenac County.

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

The non-profit was established by Vantage Plastics to address and find solutions for childcare availability, housing and the mental health for employees. Also there is a strong recycling focus to their manufacturing operations. <https://www.vantageplastics.com/resources/edge-materials-management/>

Kathy Methner, Roscommon County EDC Chair and Brownfield Authority

The Roscommon County EDC has received ARPA funding from the County. This funding will include a grant program for small businesses.

9. Good of the Order

Natasha Allen, Michigan Works Association

The Michigan Works system is funded by a combination of state and federal dollars. The federal reauthorization includes new rules that will significantly impact Michigan,

negatively impacting the State’s ability to provide services. We may be called upon for public comment.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the RED Team meeting was adjourned at 2:21 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	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. 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.