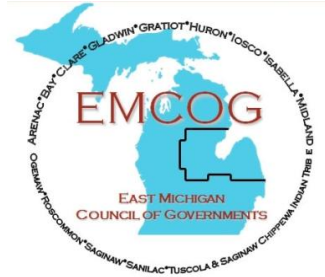


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2022 EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM MEETING APPROVED JANUARY 20, 2023

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, November 4, 2022 at Noon (Note: lunch break at 11:30 am)
Location: Michigan Works at 110 Buckeye St. Gladwin MI 48624

RED Team	Dr. Cathy Baase, Brenda Bachelder, Robert Balzer (Chair), Zygy Dworzecki, Jamie Forbes, Erik Johnson, Katherine Methner, Tim Nieporte, Jeff Panches, Erik Rodriguez, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright, Chris Young
EMCOG	Jane Fitzpatrick and Cody Bodrie
Guests	Chuck Bennett, City of Brown City; Maja Bolanowska, Midland Area Transportation Study; Kimberly Hines, City of Beaverton; Brad Jensen, Huron Pines; Mark Justin, Gladwin County; Matt Lang, Gladwin County EDC and MIWorks Region 7B; Christine Maul, Executive Office of Governor Whitmer; Bryce Paulsen, USDA Rural; Penny Payea, Roscommon County EDC and Michigan Works 7B; Lori Phelps, Clare County

- 1. Call to order, Welcome, Introductions, Determination of a Quorum:** Robert Balzer, RED Team
The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. Those present introduced themselves.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda** (action item)
A motion was made by Zygy Dworzecki, supported by Bill Wright to approve the proposed agenda with no changes. The motion carried.
- 3. Review and Approval of May 6th, July 15th, September 16th 2022 RED Team Minutes** (action item)
Motion to approved the minutes of the May 6, July 15, and September 16 RED Team minutes was made by Zygy Dworzecki, supported by Katherine Methner. The motion carried.
- 4. Chairperson Update:** Robert Balzer
Robert spoke about the Consumers Energy Our Town matching funds program which supports such entities as food banks and United Ways. This year, instead of the Our Town

matching funds program they have initiated a grant funding program called People, Prosperity and Planet – a \$16 million grant initiative with up to \$250K per grant.

5. Presentation of the Lake Huron Forever Initiative: Brad Jensen, Huron Pines

Brad's presentation included a power point which will be distributed after the meeting. He discussed the Lake Huron Forever Initiative which was developed in 2019 by shoreline community foundation and conservation partners from the United States and Canada to "advance water quality protection and healthy, sustainable communities on both sides of Lake Huron".

6. Discussion of Proposed EMCOG Recovery Strategies – Jane Fitzpatrick, and Regional Partners (Note: written reports will be provided)

Jane led a discussion of the draft document "*Proposed Recovery/Resiliency Strategies for the Addendum to the EMCOG 2021-2025 CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy)*". Much of the discussion revolved around ways to bring a younger population in to the RED Team discussions and development of action items to implement the strategies. Another focus of discussion was the expansion of partnerships within the Region and the establishment of RED Team sub-committees. These items will be developed as action items with the identification of partners and sub committees during 2023. Bill Wright made a suggestion to revise the workforce strategy to cross reference with the broadband strategies already in the 2021-2025 CEDS to more strongly link the necessity as it relates to the workforce. The proposed addendum to the CEDS, including the supporting reports will be completed and posted for public comment in December prior to final consideration and approval at the January RED Team meeting.

7. Integrated Economic & Community Development Activities: EMCOG Staff

EMCOG staff, Cody Brodie and Jane Fitzpatrick highlighted items included in their written reports which were distributed prior to the meeting. Jane noted that the Asset Management Champion Program is starting up again and registration is now open. The official notice will be sent out after the meeting.

8. Partner Updates

Robert Balzer, Consumers Energy

Bob talked about the discussion at the earlier Council meeting about the desire to have more information about EMCOG provided to the Council and RED Team members, especially with the changes and growth in members. He would like to have an orientation session and even establish a FAQ page.

Joel Vernier, Secord Township

Joel gave an update on the dam situation saying that he gets nervous when he hears talk about the dams being taken down. This is not happening and the lakes will be restored. The Four Lakes Task Force is currently working with homeowners to make them aware of what they are responsible for clearing from their property within the lake boundaries; they must pull out the trees and cannot simply cut them down. He also noted that he is seeing very little if any negativity regarding the lakes progress on social media.

Kimberly Hines, City of Beaverton

She noted that five months after the flood the city's dam was throwing bearings and is still out of commission, impacting 12% of the city's revenue. They are pursuing a \$1.0 FEMA grant to fix the gate and seawall and other items. The city just completed its water treatment plant project for rust removal and is waiting for the tanks. Their industrial park expansion was just finished. The did/will have an open house at their new Department of Public Works building. She is working with Scott Govitz in the pursuit of a sporting complex through the County ARPA funding, and also the Governor's Office for road improvements to facilitate building seven middle income homes.

Jeff Panches, Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Mid Michigan

Jeff briefly discussed a video that he worked with the Beaverton Tavern to create. He will send it to Jane for distribution to the RED Team. He also noted that Chris Vieau is the new Regional Director of the SBDC Lake Huron Region, joining Michael Nunnely who is the Associate Regional Director. Chris is filling the position that was vacated by Beth Roszatycki when she moved to her new position as the SBDC Chief Client Services Officer.

Penny Payea, Ogemaw County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Michigan Works Region 7B

Penny mentioned a number of initiatives going on in Ogemaw County including a housing project in downtown West Branch, removing some traffic lanes to allow businesses to expand with outdoor seating, and working with both Arenac and Iosco counties on childcare grants. She is also finishing up the Michigan Infrastructure Council's Asset Management certification training.

Brenda Bachelder, Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Michigan Works Region 7B

The Roscommon County United Way received a \$200,000 grant from Consumers Energy for establishing a mobile soup kitchen. The Roscommon County EDC is doing quite a bit with their County ARPA funds with a focus on visible things such as tourism and small business grant programs. Roscommon County has a ballot issue on November 8th to Draft

restore a general operating millage. If it fails the County will be cutting non-essential costs. Going Pro Talent Fund status: the program is still being designed so the roll-out has been delayed. The time frame now is November 21st with over \$50 million in training opportunities for businesses.

Christine Maul, Executive Office of Governor Whitmer

The application process is now open for childcare grants with \$50 million available to expand existing or open new childcare facilities.

Chuck Bennett, City of Brown City

Chuck has been the city manager for about a month. He is spearheading a SPARK grant application for the city.

Katherine Methner, Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Private Business

Kathy noted that the communities that she has worked with have strong partnerships and are willing to pursue programs and funding. She announced that she has moved to the Village of Farwell (Clare County) and so will be leaving the Roscommon County EDC.

Christine Young, Develop Iosco and Perceptions Agency

Develop Iosco is reorganizing and pursuing some funding opportunities. Its current campaign focus is a Develop Iosco Winter Market to be located in the center of the County. Within Oscoda Township two 200-unit apartment complexes were just approved.

Zygy Dworzecki, Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

An agriculture company is doing a \$12.0 million expansion in Tuscola County.

Bill Wright, Citizen at Large, Environmental and Transit Focus

As a follow up to the discussion about what the meaning of so many acronyms and initialisms are, Bill asked if anyone knew what ECMEDD was? (No one did.) This was the former EMCOC label – East Central Michigan Economic Development District.

Jamie Forbes, Saginaw Transit Authority and Regional Services (STARS)

STARS has started up a smart credit application which will allow routing, live-tracking and payment via smart phones. STARS returned to charging fares on October 1st after waiving them during the pandemic. Some of the fares are lower than what they had been pre-pandemic. STARS is about 25% through their Potter Street Station transit feasibility study.

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

Eric works with the principals in five districts. There are widespread staffing challenges but there is more positivity now and they are finding solutions by getting creative. The RESD's Criminal Justice class got to go to the Michigan State Police (MSP) Headquarters in Lansing for a day. On the way back to their campus the bus was pulled over by the MSP who delivered boxes of pizza for everyone.

Dr. Cathy Baase, Michigan Health Improvement Alliance (MIHIA)

Dr. Baase noted that she likes the proposed strategies updates. She is hearing about lots of money going around in relation to the new State Housing Plan, the first such statewide plan in 40 years. Every county has \$200,000 for blight management but the counties must request their allocation. This program closes in January. The money goes through the County land banks. If there is no county land bank it must go through the State Land Bank. The blight money can be used for commercial and housing structures including for rehabilitation. Also the Michigan Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy Efficiency Program (MI-HOPE) is for individual home owners and renters. Funding of up to \$25,000 per house is available for rehabilitation that is energy related. This program is accessible through calling 211 or through the United Ways. MIHIA is working on a food ecosystem grant to develop a strong eco system.

Matt Lang, Gladwin County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and MiWorks Region 7B

Matt suggested we ask young people to host our meetings. The Gladwin County EDC has formalized their partnership with the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC). Osceola County Economic Development is now also a part of the MMDC.

9. Good of the Order

There were no further comments or discussion.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the RED Team meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2023 at Noon at SVSU

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE *
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM
(RED Team)

MONTH	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION
January 20 , 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	Saginaw Valley State University
March 10, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	Bay County Historical Museum Bay City
May 12, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined
July 14, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined
September 15, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined
November 10, 2023	Full RED Team	Noon	To Be Determined

*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 a cost of \$10.00 per person 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.