

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM Approved January 15, 2021

Meeting Date: Friday, November 6, 2020

Meeting Time: Noon

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

Attendees:

RED Team	Ed Bergeron, Stephanie Buffman, Tracy Byard, Zygy Dworzecki, Tom Mayan, Jim McBryde, Bill Mrdeza, Dave Rowley, Joel Vernier, Bill Wright
EMCOG	David Engelhardt, Bill Ernat, Jane Fitzpatrick, Sue Fortune
Guests	Sharon Campbell, UMC Gladwin County; Aysia Christy, MACF; Dennis Dunnigen, FEMA; Brenda Flory, MEDC; Dave Kepler, Four Lakes Task Force; Carla Long, Gladwin Co Disaster Case Mgr.; Karen Moore, Gladwin County; Katie Mora, MMDC;

1. Call to order, Welcome and Introductions: Bill Mrdeza, Chair pro tem

Note – RED Team Chair, Bob Balzer was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm with introductions of those present. Jane Fitzpatrick noted that due to the nature of this virtual meeting there is no sign in sheet so if there is anyone attending that would like to be added to the distribute list to please send their contact information to jfitzpatrick@emcog.org/

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Review and Approval of September 11, 2020 RED Team Minutes

The draft minutes were approved with no changes.

4. Chairperson Update: Bill Mrdeza, Chair pro tem

There was no chair update.

5. Four Lakes Task Force – Report on May, 2020 Disaster Status: Dave Kepler, President & Joel Vernier, Board Member

The Four Lakes Task Force is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed and operated by lake residents and industry experts to administer and oversee the maintenance and operations of the four dams and lakes of Secord, Smallwood, Wixom and Sanford in Gladwin and Midland counties.

Dave Kepler gave a brief background of the dams pre-disaster noting that there are not many Federal programs that cover private infrastructure. The burden of costs of maintenance comes to the lake property owners. The four lakes encompass nine townships and villages with 8,000 parcels with 6,000 property owners. The first step for restoration and stabilization is to acquire the dams. The current owner does not have the resources to repair, address environmental and restoration needs. The FLTF hopes to get the property by the end of this year. The estimate to just stabilize the system is \$40 Million. Further steps include getting through the stabilization phase, then conducting flood studies regarding flood capacity and what needs to be changed; then design, engineering and rebuilding all four dams. It will take a significant amount of money to bring the four dams up to current standards with an optimistic time frame of 3-5 years.

6. Back to Michigan - Great Lakes Bay - Katie Mora, Middle Michigan Development Corporation

This is the third annual Coming Home event. EMCOG provided financial support through the RPI-5 grant initiative for the first event two years ago. Due to the pandemic, it will be a virtual event this year (November 23rd). Katie will tell us how this virtual event will connect participants with organizations including one-on-one chats. <http://discovergreatlakesbay.com/coming-home/>

This year is the third year of this event It will be a virtual event for this year. The event is a networking event which was held at SVSU in 2018 and Mountaintop Station in Mt Pleasant/CMU in 2019. Young professionals are invited back to the area. The primary goals include connecting job seekers with jobs and networking. A website has been launched covering the eight counties of Regional Prosperity 5 region. Also this initiative will be hosting two booths at the Back to Michigan virtual event later this month.

7. Integrated Economic Development Activities: EMCOG Staff (highlights of written reports sent out prior to the meeting).

Staff gave summaries of previously distributed written reports. Jane provided additional comments regarding COVID-19 in the Region: as of November 5th: there were 11,842 confirmed cases (3.7% increase from the day before) and 369 confirmed deaths. We are seeing spikes in Bay and Clare counties this week.

8. Good of the Order

Jim McBryde, Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Jim gave a report on the distribution of State resources relating to the pandemic : MEDC CDC Council distribution: Saginaw Future Inc. distributes funds for the counties of Saginaw, Bay, Arenac and Midland.Sag Future (sag/bay/arenac/midland. Middle Michigan Development Corporation

(MMDC) distributes funds for the counties of Gratiot, Isabella, Clare and Gladwin. – MMDC distributes \$200,000 in March and April through 170 grants at an average of \$5,000 per grant.

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Dave Rowley, MSU Extension

All programming is now online. The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Showcase conference is going to be next year. This year there will be a 7 state virtual showcase. He is working on County Commissioner schools, re-partnering with the State on fiscally ready communities. Dave's service area is expanding to now include all fourteen counties within EMCOG.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business the RED Team meeting was adjourned at 1:25 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

In general RED Team meetings begin at Noon following 10:00 a.m. Full Council meetings (Note: the exception is the May 1st joint meeting which starts at 10:00 am). For in person meetings 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. July, 2020: EMCOG will be utilizing a virtual meeting format for the remaining meetings of 2020.

NOTE: Members of the public are always welcome at any EMCOG RED Team meeting.