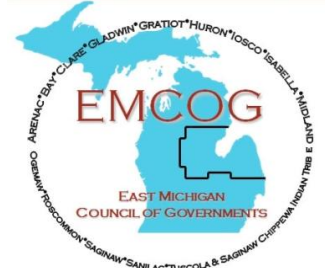


EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Approved Minutes of the September 10, 2021 EMCOG REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) TEAM

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, September 10, 2021 at Noon

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

Attendees:

RED Team	Brenda Bachelder, Bob Balzer, Ed Bergeron, Mary Bickel, Terri Close, Frank Cloutier, Todd Dickerson, Zygy Dworzecki, Steve Erickson, Scott Govitz, Eric Johnson, Heath Kaplan, Trevor Keyes, Michael Nunneley, Pam O’Laughlin, Carl Ostentoski, David Rowley, Nicole Wilson, Bill Wright, Kacey Zehner (19 = quorum present)
EMCOG	Jane Fitzpatrick, Bill Ernat, Cynthia Edwards, Cody Bodrie. Sue Fortune
Guests	Chelsea Beckman, MEDC; Heath Bobick, MI EGLE; Maja Bolanowska, MATS; Mary Bourbina, City of Zilwaukee; Claire Bunker, MiSTEM Network; Brady Cameron, R.C. Hendrick & Son; John Dantzer, City of West Branch; Dylan Hellus, Governor’s Office; Jacob Kain, City of Mt Pleasant; Karen Moore, Gladwin County Commission; Rodney Nanny, Union Township; Amos O’Neal, Representative, 95 th District; Shelli Thurston, City of Bay City; Dan Tighe, City of Caseville; Dale Wiltse, City of Au Gres; Tim Wolff, Village of Lake Isabella

- 1. Call to order, Welcome, Introductions, Determination of a Quorum:** Robert Balzer, RED Team Chair
The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. A quorum was confirmed and those present introduced themselves.
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda** (action item)
A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Zygy Dworzecki and supported by Bill Wright. The motion passed with none opposed.
- 3. Review and Approval of July 9, 2021 RED Team Minutes** (action item)
A motion was made by Zygy Dworzecki and supported by Bill Wright to approve the July 9, 2021 RED Team Minutes. The motion passed with none opposed.

4. Chairperson Update: Robert Balzer

Bob commented on the great effort at this time to attract and retain employees and noted the large number of programs out there to assist with this. He urged to utilize Michigan Works and its talent attraction website, the apprenticeship programs, co-ops and work based learning programs and apprenticeships. He made reference to Eric Johnson (in attendance) from the Clare/Gladwin RESD and how the RESD has struggled in the past to grow their co-op/internship program but at this point businesses are reaching out and enrollment is up.

5. Governor's Office Update - Dylan Hellus, Bay Regional Liaison for Governor Whitmer

Dylan gave an overview of the budget, noting that it must be passed and signed by October 1st. He encouraged communications with our respective representatives as well as the chairs of the appropriations committees (House, Senate, Joint). As a resource go to www.michigan.gov/budget for updated information and resources. He also noted that as COVID cases are rising and the cold weather approaches and we are back inside for many events, he encourages vaccination as the way to put this pandemic behind us.

6. EMCOG Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Programs - Sue Fortune, EMCOG

Sue gave a overview of the EMCOG 14 County CARES Act revolving loan funding programs and the types of financial support they can provide and the process for applying.

7. EDA Grant- City of Beaverton Industrial Park Expansion & Upgrade: Overview, Status and Lessons Learned - Heath Kaplan, City Manager

Heath gave an overview of the project which involved coordination of an EDA grant with a MDOT grant and USDA-Rural funding to support expansion of the Saint-Gobain site in Beaverton. The project includes moving a city road in order to make available more land for the expansion and the construction of a new iron removal plant as part of the water system. Sidewalks and water lines are also part of the project. The roadwork will be done by December and the water treatment plant in March of 2022. The following is a link to the company website description of the project.

<https://www.saint-gobain-northamerica.com/company/newsroom/news-releases/saint-gobain-performance-plastics-breaks-ground-beaverton-site>

8. Integration of PASER¹ Ratings Data into Regional Planning – Cody Bodrie, EMCOG

Cody gave a presentation of the type of mapping that can be done utilizing the PASER ratings data. For further information you can contact him directly at codyb@emcog.org

9. EMCOG GIS/Data Hub Development Update – Cynthia Edwards, EMCOG

Cynthia provided a brief update of the data hub development and updates/revisions to the EMCOG website. She also referenced the online survey regarding the website design and noted comment received to date. The link to the survey is <https://arcg.is/Of0vKz> You can also find the survey link on the EMCOG website homepage. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

10. Integrated Economic & Community Development Activities: Jane Fitzpatrick

Jane referenced the staff reports that were distributed in the agenda packet and asked for any questions or comments. There were none as much had already been discussed during prior agenda items. She highlighted the upcoming MSU Extension/EMCOG ARPA Workshop for local governments and non-profits. This workshop will be on October 27th and is planned to be a combination of in-person (Gladwin County MiWorks Office) and virtual event. Dave Rowley of MSU Extension noted that he is part of the planning team for this and noted that the biggest confusion at this point is the timeline for the funds.

11. Partner Updates

Mike Nunnely, GLB and NE Region SBDC

They have recently added two new business consultants giving them a little more capacity than they have had over the past 18 months. They can make presentations to share their story and what they can bring o the communities regarding small business.

Eric Johnson, Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District

Students are building a modular house on their site, partnering with Habitat for Humanity. This is a unique project where students are working with contractors based on their interest.

¹ The PASER scale is a 1-10 rating system for road pavement condition using visual inspection to evaluate pavement surface conditions.

12. Good of the Order

Rich Van Tol, Bay-Arenac intermediate School District

They have updated their website for the Michigan Tri-Share pilot project.
www.businesssupportingparents.org/childcare

Saint-Gobain (Gladwin County) is coming in as a partner. Vantage Plastics (Arenac County) is also a partner. In looking at ARPA dollars for childcare, one of the Bay County strategies is hopefully to establish a capital investment fund through the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Rowley, MSU Extension

MSU is going to bring back the zoning administrator certificate program as an 8-module program with online and in person sessions in Mt Pleasant.

Dale Wiltse, City of Au Gres

Dale discussed the status of the city campgrounds which are at full occupancy and the desire to expand capacity which would have a tremendous impact on the economic status of the community. He will be seeking grant funds and is also seeking a grant writer. Based on further discussion, EMCOG will compile a list of grant writers that would be available to assist communities in applying for grant dollars. Dave Rowley will research training opportunities regarding grant writing.

13. Adjourn : There being no further business, the RED Team meeting was adjourned at 1:48 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	Virtual Meeting*
November 5, 2021	Full RED Team	Noon	Virtual Meeting*

*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.