

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Executive Committee
April 19, 2015
2:30 p.m.
Kent County Human Services Building

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Weiss called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Present: John Weiss, GVMC
 Roger Safford, MDOT
 Rich Chapla, The Right Place
 Simone Jonaitis - GVSU
 Valerie Byrnes – Barry County Economic Development Alliance
 Bob Chapla – Community Foundation for Muskegon County
 Kevin Stotts – Talent 2025
 Jim Sandy – Mecosta County Economic Development Alliance
 Andy Johnston – Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
 Julie Owen – Lakeshore Advantage
 Jennifer Owen – Muskegon-Oceana Michigan Works
 Bill Raymond - Ottawa County Michigan Works
 Jim Fisher – Padnos, Inc.
 Lisa Stich – West Shore Community College
 Kathleen Sullivan – Adult Learning Partners of West Michigan
 Doug Wood - Orchard view Public Schools
 Dave Bee – West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
 Dan Peterson - Eight Cap

2. Minutes – MOTION – To Approve the March 2015 Minutes. MOVE – Stotts. SUPPORT – Johnston. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Lakeshore Presentation

- a. Jennifer Owen presented on the economic history and trends in the Lakeshore area.

4. Communications Plan

- a. Valerie Byrnes presented the prototype of the Website. More work still needs to be done as well as migration of information from current site. The company which created the website will finish development and migrate information. Members are asked to forward pictures to be included on the site as well as additional information. After the site is completely up and running, Gayle will handle updates.

- b. The need for continuation of Base Camp was discussed. Since most of the info. on Base Camp is either contained on the web page or on outlook distribution lists, it was decided Base Camp could be discontinued.

5. Transit Analysis

- a. Dave Bee updated the group on the transit analysis information requested by the Governor's office, which focused mainly on healthcare hubs & senior transit providers. It is part of a larger overall analysis involving all the regions. Strengths, weaknesses, disconnects, etc.
- b. Jim Fisher suggested expanded transit issues (private sector & labor needs, etc.) would be a good topic for a mini summit. Andy Johnston reported much of this has already been done in the 2013 transit study.

6. Grant Liaison Appointments

- a. Muskegon Port – Erin Kuhn
- b. Emerge – Jennifer Owen
- c. Connect Michigan – Paul Griffith
- d. Michigan Work Ready – Kevin Stotts
- e. Clean Water – Steve Bulthuis

7. Project Progress

- a. Muskegon Port – Information was reviewed regarding the Port Project.
- b. Emerge – They are ready to receive the RPI grant and asked for info on how to formally request check.
- c. Clean Water Consortium – Getting organized and will be ready to present on progress at Ludington meeting in July.

8. Governor's Economic Summit

- a. The Governor's Economic & Education Summit was reviewed. Our Region's attendance was very good, and dominated by the Education sector.

9. Mini Summit

- a. John Weiss handed out a list of those who indicated they would be willing to help organize a West Michigan Mini Summit. It would be a large logistical undertaking. The business sector would have to be more involved to make it worthwhile. It could open people's eyes to what can be done regionally. Our great strength is that of a convener.
- b. Kevin Stotts stated the challenge would be deciding what we wanted to accomplish and focusing the agenda on that. What value could we bring by getting business and education representatives both in the same room? Need to have a tangible goal. Not do it just to do it.
- c. A partnership with the West Michigan Policy Forum or other group was suggested.

- d. Possible topics discussed included transit, employment sustainability, regional dashboard, measures of prosperity, opening up relationships for collaboration, ALICE conversation, the people in the shadows, BFP case study.
- e. Homework is for everyone to forward their ideas on a Mini Summit to John via e-mail.

10. Collaborations in West Michigan

- a. West Michigan Regional Planning Commission / WMSRDC. Dave Bee discussed a memorandum of understanding for the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission to partner with WMSRDC.
- b. Roger Safford reported on the consolidation of Region 4 MDOT operations.

11. Next Meeting – May 27, GVMC Offices

12. Adjourn – 2:10 p.m.