

Governor's Conference

"Acting as One to Accelerate Regional Cooperation"

Conference Summary

West Michigan leaders broke into smaller workgroups to discuss and prioritize ways to spur regional collaboration during the recent Acting as One to Accelerate Regional Cooperation conference at the Meijer Gardens conference center. Each of the workgroups produced a series of recommendations that are summarized in the following report.



Nearly 200 of the 600 attendees at the November 3 regional cooperation conference took advantage of the opportunity to vote, electronically, on some of the recommendations included in the report of the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council. While the voting results pointed to a wide range of opinions on key issues, there was support for several key recommendations that are already moving through the Legislature.

Former Lansing Mayor David C. Hollister, who now serves as Director of the new state Department of Labor and Economic Growth, urged attendees to continue thinking regionally and acting locally to solve a wide range of problems facing West Michigan communities. Hollister, who served 20 years in the Michigan House of Representatives, praised regional collaboration initiatives in West Michigan and implored attendees from the public, private and institutional sectors to continue working together to improve economic growth opportunities in the region.



Breakout Results – Recommendations for Process & Involvement

- Enabling legislation for this collaboration with incentives
- Education & information for public involvement
- Seek input from all potential populations
- Collaborative planning respecting each others individuality and uniqueness
- Developing ownership of a regional perspective
- Modify zoning ordinances
- Sharing knowledge (not reinventing the wheels)

- Cooperation among governments (incentives vs. mandated)
- Communication to stakeholders on a regular basis
- Make sure there are clear incentives. We need to understand the economics of development.

Voting Results Summary

Demographics

- What sector do you represent? Government 52% - Business 20% - Non-Profit 25% - Other 4%
- What part of the Tri-plex do you align with? Grand Rapids 66% - Holland 19% - Muskegon 15%
- What is your primary interest? Rural Issues 41% - Urban Issues 59%
- How familiar are you with the recommendations? First exposure 17% - Some exposure 54% - Very familiar 28%
- Where do you live? City 49% - Township 48% - Village 4

MLULC Report Priorities

- Siting of Public Facilities. 60 %
- State and Local Assistance in Attracting Private Investment. 63%
- Public/Private Support for Livable Communities. 66%
- Governmental Programs: Land Division Act reforms. 61%
- Education and Public Information: Land use education. 62%
- Housing and Development: Manufactured home community legislation. 67%
- State Role in Land Use and Intergovernmental Cooperation: Establishment of state land use goals for Michigan . 66%
- State Role in Land Use and Intergovernmental Cooperation: Modernization of the planning and zoning enabling acts. 61%
- Regional Land Use and Intergovernmental Cooperation: Regional and multi-jurisdictional partnerships. 60%
- Local Governance Structure: Authorization of joint planning commissions. 79%
- Balanced Growth Strategy: Balancing the authorization of new planning and zoning tools with certainty for obtaining approval for higher density. 60%
- State Infrastructure Expenditures 61%
- Multi-jurisdictional Infrastructure Considerations 61%