<u>Minutes</u>

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Steering Committee
April 18, 2016

WMSRDC Offices

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

    The meeting was called to order by John Weiss.

    Present: John Weiss - GVMC
                     Erin Kuhn – WMSRDC
                     Steve Bulthuis – MACC
                     Kevin Stotts – Talent 2025
                     Rick Chapla – The Right Place
                     Doug Wood – Orchard View Public Schools
                     Jim Sandy – Mecosta County Development Corp.
                     Ed Garner – Muskegon Area First
                     Andy Johnston – Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
                     Anne Armstrong Cusak – Office of Governor Snyder
                     Kiesha Guy – Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership
                     Paul Griffith – Michigan Works! West Central
                     Dave Bee – West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
                     Doug Wood – Orchard View Community Education
                     Jacob Maas – West Michigan Works!
                     Andy Johnston – Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
                     Crystal Young – West Shore Community College
                     Roger Safford - HNTB
                     Al Vanderberg – Ottawa County
                     Keith VanBeek – Ottawa County
                     Jennifer Owens – Lakeshore Advantage
                     Dan Rinsema-Sybenga – Muskegon Community College
                     Bob Chapla – Community Foundation for Muskegon County
                     Brenda Nyhof – Allegan Adult Education
                     Jim Fisher - Padnos
                     Bill Raymond – Ottawa County Community Action
                     Dan Peterson – 8Cap

2. **Public Comment**
        None

3. **Appointment of Crystal Young**

   MOTION – To Appoint Crystal Young of West Shore Community College to the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. MOVE – Fisher. SUPPORT – Kuhn. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

   MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the February RPI Steering Committee. MOVE – Johnston. SUPPORT – Maas. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **State Funding Update**

   Andy Johnston reported RPI funding for FY2017 has been deleted from the proposed State of Michigan budget. The legislature is working to come up with funding for the Flint water crisis and other issues. Elimination of funding is being viewed as a "conversation starter" as legislators review the overall RPI program and how other regions are spending their funds.

   Anne Armstrong Cusak reported the RPI is still a priority of the Governor and he is working to restore funding.

   The Metro Council will take up a resolution in support of continued RPI funding. All Steering Committee members are urged to contact their legislators regarding their support of reinstated funding.

   MOTION – To Contact Legislators Regarding the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance's Formal Support of Continued State Funding. MOVE – Chapla. SUPPORT – Garner. MOTION CARRIED.

6. **Update on Dashboard Project**

   Rich Chapla updated the group on the Dashboard Project. The advisory group will be meeting this Wednesday to finalize the metrics. Data collection will start after the metrics are determined. Good 5 county info was obtained from the WMSA records. The Minneapolis dashboard is also a key resource.

   The first public presentation will be in June at the RPI meeting in Ludington. The final product should be available by October.

   John Weiss added as this project is presented & discussed, we need to make sure it is conveyed as a joint effort between the RPI group and the Right Place. The product also needs to be available through our website.

7. **Update on Clean Water Project**

    Steve Bulthuis distributed a report and updated the group on the Clean Water Project – developing sustainable funding for watershed management. The project is being managed by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council in partnership with GVMC and WMSRDC.

    Public Sector Consultants was hired to do the study. PSC will provide monthly progress reports. It is anticipated the final report will be available by August.

8. **Strategic Planning**

    Al Vanderberg and Keith VanBeek conducted a strategic planning exercise. A final report will be forwarded to the Steering Committee to be reviewed at the May meeting.

9. **Next Meeting**

    - **May 16 – Executive Committee Meeting**
        - Strategic Planning Results
        - Call for Projects

    - **June 20 – Full Steering Committee Meeting – Ludington**
        - Clean Water Update – Steve
        - Dashboard – Rick
        - Call for Projects

10. **Adjourn**