



**REVISED Minutes
of
Region 3 Regional Prosperity Initiative Collaborative
February 24, 2016
University Center
Gaylord, MI**

Call to Order: Doug Baum called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members Present: Doug Baum, Diane Rekowski, Erich Podjaske, Lisa Bolen, Marv Pichla, Paul Chellberg, Tim Jenks, Luann Mabarak, Tom Stephenson, Ray LeClair, Patty O'Donnell, Niki Chamberlain, Rina Allen, Lisa McComb, Donna LaCourt, Bruno Wojcik, Rosalie Myers, Marisue Moreau and Natasha Allen. Staff: Denise Cline and Theresa Huff

Minutes of Previous Meeting: T. Jenks moved, supported by E. Podjaske to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

RPI Financial Report: No report, just received grant.

D. Rekowski reviewed the mini-grant program for Training Scholarships. Originally the Training Scholarships specified the Digital Works Pilot for Cheboygan. There was a miscommunication and Digital Works was taken off the title and was then open to all training in region. Digital Works needs more funding to sustain it until the sustainability plan (working w/ State on existing training funds, fee per student and college integration) is put in place. Since the Center opened and graduated its first cohort in December, 6 people have jobs, 2nd cohort graduated and interviewing and 2 cohorts per week will be running in Feb/March due to demand. MEDC partially funded the start-up along with the Cheboygan Community Foundation. The Center will likely close on March 1, 2016 if funding isn't procured. Moved by L. McComb, seconded by R. LeClair to amend the mini-grant line item for Training to Digital Works. All ayes, motion carried.

Collaborative Structure:

Relationship to NEMCOG

D. Rekowski reviewed handout.

Mission & Vision Statement & Goals

D. Rekowski handed out a copy of the mission statement and reviewed it with the group. Needs to be updated in "focus" areas, Chamber, Aerospace, etc. It's outdated and parts are obsolete. D. Baum recommended a subcommittee comprised of D. Cline, R. Allen, N.

Chamberlain and E. Podjaske to review Statements and bring back recommendations to the Collaborative. They will plan to meeting in March and report back to the group in April.

Rules and By-Laws : Established subcommittee to report back to Collaborative: D. Rekowski, D. Baum and L. Mabarak.

2016 RPI Grant Update: D. Rekowski stated the contract was received and now ready to implement. Talent projects will be handled through the Talent District Career Council(TDCC) of the NE MI Consortium/MI Works! and updated by them at the Collaborative meetings.

Launching of Region 3's Collaborative Website: Denise Cline provided a presentation on the new Region 3 Collaborative website which consolidates the NE Consortium/MI Works! and NEMCOG's and RPI's into one site. The website can be found at "Discover Northeast Michigan.com once it is launched (Feb.26).

Committee Member Updates:

D. LaCourt: Announced the Special Crop grants. Grant application is open. Will keep Collaborative posted on Value Ag grants.

P. O'Donnell, MDOT: Public meeting on the State Long Range Plan being organized.

T. Stephenson, Connect MI: Kicking off Presque Isle Township/County Broadband Plan development. Next will be Alpena and Gaylord. Over 9 million in Connect America Funds (CAF) were acquired by providers within the NEMCOG Region for high-speed internet build-out.

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Next Meeting Date: March 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. just after EDC group meeting at noon.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.