



Northeast Michigan

Regional Prosperity Initiative

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**Minutes
of the
Region 3: RPI Collaborative
April 19, 2017
University Center
Gaylord, MI**

Call to Order: Chair, Doug Baum called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Hannah Sanderson, Tom Stephenson, Erich Podjaske, Doug Baum, Daniel Beltz, Steve Schnell, Niki Chamberlain, Audra Leininger, Steve Milford, Rosalie Myers.

Those attending via Go-To-Meeting: Donna LaCourt

Staff: Diane Rekowski

Approval of Previous Minutes: N. Chamberlain moved, seconded by E. Podjaske to receive and file the minutes of the March 2017 meeting. Ayes all, motion carried.

Financial Report: Reports will be provided at May meeting.

Presentations: Due to the change of the meeting date, the Consumer's Energy Presentation was postponed to the May meeting.

Dan Belz, COOR ISD, Principal of Career Technology Program and Early Middle College Director provided an informative overview of the Middle School program the ISD operates. The Middle School College program is held on Kirtland's Main Campus in Roscommon. The focus is on vocational training: welding, auto mechanics, public safety. Students receive certificates and Associate Degrees upon completion. There is no student loan debt as most is paid for by COOR. Discussed the need to connect students/teachers to why/how the classes being taught and taken provide the skills necessary for the job market. H. Sanderson felt that some of these connections could also be incorporated into NLEA's Hot Jobs for the region project as well as school banner and materials.

Talent Committee Update: A. Leninger updated the group on the Millennial Focus Groups sessions she is organizing throughout the region. On June 8, 2017 the first focus group will be held at the paddle Brewery in Grayling from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Alpena's session is being organized to take place in July and Cheboygan's will be in August.

D. Rekowski discussed need to develop a process for the funds in the Talent Tours, Quality of Life College Promotion and the In-school Talent materials development and dissemination. Lisa McComb, Nikki Chamberlain and LuAnn Mabarak (will ask) will meet to develop criteria/process.

Community/Economic Development Committee Update:

Minigrants: D. Rekowski updated the Collaborative on dates: both Marketing and Community/Economic Development Minigrants are due: May 1st; review committee (Denise Cline, Rosalie Myers, LuAnn Mabarak, Eric Podjaske, Lisa McComb, Hannah Sanderson/Andy Hayes, Dan Scow) meets via go-to-meeting May 17th, 2:00pm; May 26th Mini grants awarded.

2016 Minigrants Completed: D. Rekowski will provide a synopsis of projects. There was interest from the Collaborative to have reports from some of the recipients. H. Sanderson volunteered to report on their minigrant at a future meeting.

Collaborative Operating Procedures:

Steve Schnell reviewed the final draft of the "Operating Procedures" for the Collaborative. Discussion followed on the Operating procedures. Moved by S. Schnell, seconded by N. Chamberlain to approve the Collaborative Operating Procedures. Ayes all, motion carried.

Other:

RPI Plan Review: D. Baum discussed wanting to review the Community/Economic Development portion of the plan (Talent portion completed) as many members were not involved. D. Rekowski will add to agenda for May.

RPI Partner's Organization's Overview: It was felt that members learn allot from the overviews provided by the partners. Dana's and Dan's were very informative. D. Rekowski will continue to schedule these. Overview is not meant to add work to anyone, rather have an informal discussion on respective organization and programs provided.

Updates

D Baum:informed the group of their expanded Farmer's market project.Will include 2 incubators, regional distribution center, slaughterhouse, chees

N. Chanberlain: MI Works! sponsoring 4 Career Fairs and Talent Tours.

H. Sanderson: NLEA Annual Meeting, May 19th at the Petoskey Football Field. Hired interns for the Hot Jobs project.

E. Podjaske: Completing City of Grayling Zoning Ordinance which will allow for more density and mixed use in the City.

S. Milford: Updated the Collaborative on PA 288 which opens state l;and roads to ORV use. DNR mapping all state land roads. Snowmobile use is declining while ORV use is increasing.

R. Myers: Informed the group of a training Dan Leonard conducted on Redevelopment Ready Communities.

T. Stephenson: Updated on 21st Infrastructure funding and broadband mapping, Connect MI mapping project and Ogemaw County's Vertical Asset Inventory.

S. Schnell: Discussed housing issues, Meijer project, employers looking for people trained in skilled trades and seeing an increase in building permits in Cheboygan County

D. LaCourt: Updated on the following: Rural Development grant awards will be announced April 24th; Arauco Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place in June; Holding logging forums – 75 attended in Gaylord, 55 in the U.P.; Greenstone is assisting with logging company financing; discussed logistic issues and tracking increase in supplier jobs from the Arauco project.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting, May 24, 2017 at 12:15 (lunch will be provided) in Gaylord. Meeting will begin at 1:00pm.