



Northeast Michigan

Regional Prosperity Initiative

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**Minutes
of the
Region 3: RPI Collaborative
February 22, 2017
University Center
Gaylord, MI**

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

Members Present: Patty O'Donnell, Lydia Murray, Hannah Sanderson, Bruno Wojcik, Rina Allen, Donna LaCourt, Rae Gosling, Erich Podjaske, Doug Baum, Dan Scow, Cameron Brunet-Koch, Daniel Beltz, Erine Adams, Steve Schnell, Niki Chamberlain, Dana McGrew, Audra Leininger and LuAnn Mabarak, Diane Love-Suvade.

Those attending via Go-To-Meeting: Tim Jenks

Staff: Diane Rekowski and Theresa Huff

Approval of Previous Minutes: L. Murray moved, seconded by R. Allen to receive and file the minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting. Ayes all, motion carried.

Financial Report: D. Rekowski informed the Collaborative that the final year-end report is showing a loss of \$1,324.53. B. Wojcik moved, seconded by N. Chamberlain to receive and file the January, 2017 financial statements. Ayes all, motion carried.

RPI 2017 Region 3 Grant: D. Rekowski received confirmation that the 2017 grant was approved and awarded \$180,897, down from \$250,000 that was requested. She provided a handout of the revised budget to include the reduced grant figures. Currently we do not have a signed grant contract.

Presentations:

Bill Pallodino and Molly Stepanski: *Taste the Local Difference* (RPI Work plan component)

Taste the Local Difference was born out of a need to help small farmers maintain farmland and stay profitable. It's been going on for 14 years and is about marketing local foods, helping farmers to have a way to sell product, how to work with other businesses to promote and sell their local foods. Region 3: CDC applied for and received MEDC regional grant funds for 2017 to implement the program in Northeast Michigan. Molly Stepanski was hired for the NE area provided an update of her activities in the region thus far. Also informed the group of the Magazine for the region that will be published and Molly has already signed up more members compared to the previous publication. Contact information for Molly: 877-562-2539 or 971-322-6226 or can email her at molly@localdifference.org or visit the website for further information: localdifference.org

Diane Love-Suvade: *Sawmill Business Incubator and Workspace Collaborative, Roscommon.*
Diane Love-Suvade provided a presentation on the Sawmill Business Incubator and Workspace Collaborative in the Village Of Roscommon. This project received a RPI mini-grant for start-up.

Courtney Baum: *DTE Energy Efficiency Program for Business, Public Entities.*
Courtney Baum, Outreach Professional for DTE Energy provided a presentation on the programs DTE provides businesses, public entities for energy efficiency and savings.

FY2017 Organization Items:

Collaborative Membership Committee:

Steve Schnell reviewed a draft copy of the “Operating Procedures” for the Collaborative. Discussion followed on the Operating procedures. The Draft will be further reviewed by the Committee. Any comments should be sent to drekowki@nemcog.org.

2017 Mini-grant Committee establishment:

D. Rekowski reviewed the draft 2017 RPI Mini-grants RFP’s. Mini-grant subcommittee volunteers are: L. McComb, L. Mabarak, E. Podjaske, R. Meyers, D. Scow and A. Hayes/Hannah Sanderson.

Talent: Funded Talent Strategies were reviewed. The following members volunteered to serve on the Talent Committee: A. Leininger, N. Chamberlain, R. Allen, D. McGrew, L. Mabarak and L. Murray.

Other Business

No Other Business

Public Comment

No public comment.

Updates

D. Leonard/MEDC updated the group on the Redevelopment Ready Communities and the ICE funding.

L. McComb passed out a flyer for “Swing & Sweets Big Band Dance” to be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the Otsego Club Convention Center, 696 E. Main St., Gaylord,

Adjournment

Next meeting March 22, 2017 at 1:00 in Gaylord. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.