



Northeast Michigan

Regional Prosperity Initiative

PO Box 457
Gaylord, MI 49734
989-705-3730

**Minutes
of the
Region 3: RPI Collaborative
June 28, 2017
Skyline Event Center
Comins, MI**

Call to Order: Chair, Doug Baum called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Special thanks was given to Tim Jenks and Susan Schrantz and others for the incredibly good local foods lunch they provided.

Members Present: Marisue Moreau, Doug Baum, LuAnn Mabarak, Molly Stepanski, Rina Allen, Lisa McComb, Niki Chamberlain, Audra Leininger, Bruno Wojcik, Tim Jenks, Patty O'Donnell, Steve Schnell, Andy Hayes, Buck Love, Sarah Barr, Brenda Bacheldor, Rosalie Myers, Lisa McComb, Dan Leonard. **Staff/Consultant:** Diane Rekowski, Janie McNabb Others: Sharon Miller, Consumers Energy, Amanda Fischer, Sydney Smith, Doug Paulus.

Quilt Trail Overview: Susan Schrantz provided a presentation on the NE MI Regional Quilt Trails an agri-tourism project.

Approval of Previous Minutes: L. Mabarak moved, seconded by B. Wojcik to receive and file the minutes of the May 2017 meeting. Ayes all, motion carried.

Financial Report: D. Rekowski presented the financial report through May. M. Moreau moved, seconded by B. Wojcik to receive and file the report. Ayes all, motion carried.

Perkins Funding: D. Rekowski indicated a letter of support may be needed from Region 3. Will ask Dan Beltz at next meeting.

Presentations: *Sharon* Miller, Consumers Energy provided an informative presentation on Consumer Energy's Talent Program.

Strategic Policy Consultants: D. Rekowski introduced Janie McNabb from Strategic Policy Consultants she recently contracted with to assist with the RPI program. Sara Wychoff-McCauley will also be assisting from the firm.

Talent Committee Update

Hot Jobs: Sydney Smith and Amanda Fisher, NLEA Interns provided a presentation on the Hot Jobs Project they are working on for Region 3. Project was funded by MEDC. NLEA interns also reported they were having problems connecting with companies who were willing to allow them in to interview workers and go on video.

Millennial's Roundtables: A. Leninger updated the group on the Millennial Focus Groups session she held on June 8, 2017 at the Paddle Brewery in Grayling. The session went well with good representation from Roscommon, Grayling area. A. Leninger will be holding future sessions in Alpena and Cheboygan.

Community/Economic Development Committee Update:

Minigrants: D. Rekowski reviewed activities implemented from 2016 Mini Grant recipients.

Regional Local Food Program: M. Stepanski updated the Collaborative on the following: website launched, successful Food Magazine party held on June 10th at the Art in the Loft in Alpena, introduced Doug Paulus, Director of the Grayling Regional Food Hub project. . D. Paulus then provided an overview of the Food Hub project.

Connect MI: No report.

Trainings: No report

Thunder Bay River Watershed Blue Water Trail Project: D. Rekowski reported on the Eco-Tourism project that involves communities from Atlanta to Alpena. NEMCOG is working on mapping access points, and segments providing descriptions, distance between segments, paddling type and other assets.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Updates

J. McNabb: Informed group of MI Manufacturing Talent Tours Week held in October. She inquired if the Collaborative was interested in sponsoring Talent Tours in each county during this week. All were supportive of doing this.

D. Leonard: Updated the Collaborative on changes at MEDC, Brownfield legislation and Redevelopment Ready Communities.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. . Next meeting is August 23, 2017 at 1:00pm. Molly Stepanski offered to host it at her farm and provide a local foods lunch. . Directions will be provided. Lunch will begin at 11:30am. The Meeting will begin at 1:00pm.