



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

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

**Members Present:** Niki Chamberlain, LuAnn Mabarak, Kathleen Vichunas, Erich Podjaske, Rosalie Myers, Doug Baum, Andy Hayes, Patty O'Donnell, Dana McGrew, Dan Leonard, David Emmel, Lydia Murray, Donna LaCourt, Bruno Wojcik and Audra Leininger.

Those attending via Go-To-Meeting: Bernedette Schuelke

**Staff:** Diane Rekowski, Denise Cline and Theresa Huff

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** A. Hayes moved, seconded by L. Murray to receive and file the minutes of the February 22, 2017 meeting. Ayes all, motion carried.

**Financial Review:** N/A.

**RPI 2017 Region 3 Grant:** D. Rekowski provided a handout of the revised budget that includes the reduced grant figures.

**Partner's Organization Overview/Discussion:**

**A. Dana McGrew/Regional Education Service Agency (RESA)**

An overview of the Iosco RESA services was provided to the Collaborative. Services include: Special Education Services including speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy; Career Tech Education: Small Engine Repair, Auto Mechanics, Food & Health Management and Health Education: Student program with Kalitta Air, a large employer in Oscoda that provides training program towards A & P license; Alternative Education in Oscoda, Ogema, for kids that are at risk of dropping out; Adult Education service provider in Region 3. All 11 RPI counties have Adult Education at some level. Other programs: Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for Pre-K children, Sunrise Side Life Long Learning, Drivers Testing, Bus Driver training and licenses updates.

**B. Dan Beltz:** N/A

**C. Other:** *David Emmel, SBDC*

New to Region 3. Will be providing SBDC services for Region 3. Currently working with 50+ businesses; 80% of them are in startup phase, 20% are in the non-startup phase. About half of the 20% non-startup phase group is in the transition phase. Has an office in the MI Works! office in Onaway.

### **Region 3: RPI Collaborative Matters**

#### **A. Organizational: Operating Procedures**

D. Rekowski provided a handout of the revised draft copy of the Operating Procedures. S. Schnell provided updates primarily with Article II: Members. After discussion, group decided to review and make discussed changes and will bring back for approval at next meeting.

#### **B. Work Plan Update**

1. Mini Grants: A. Hayes informed group that there are two types of mini-grants, same as last year, Marketing and Community/Economic Development. Grants will be awarded up to \$5,000 per project. Guidelines will be sent out by April 1, 2017. The applications will be due by May 1<sup>st</sup> giving applicants 30 days. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the winners will be announced. There is approximately \$49,000-50,000 available. The applications will be emailed out and will also be available on the NEMCOG website.
2. Talent Action Items: A. Leininger stated they have started the Entrepreneur and Talent Recruitment Strategy. Next goal is to have 3 focus groups. A. Leininger will connect with M. Moreau to work together on Talent Development.

#### **Other**

1. Awards: D. Rekowski announced that Northeast Michigan received 2 out of 3 statewide Pure MI Tourism Collaboration Awards. The Up North Trails and US-23 Heritage Route/Discovery Tour won the awards.
2. Hot Jobs: A. Hayes informed the group that there have been 2 summer interns hired. Will have a committee meeting soon.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **One Minute/60 Second Updates**

R. Meyers: Received a \$30,000 Recreation grant for the Iron Belle Trail. On 4/5 there will be a Redevelopment Readiness Program meeting with D. Leonard and L. Murray.

E. Podjaske: Shared a short MEDC video highlighting Grayling. The County received a \$170,000 grant. Arauco's groundbreaking is on April 12. They are expecting the first board to come off the line in August, 2018. Also received \$900,000 grant for the Crawford County/MDOT Bridge project.

N. Chamberlain: Career fairs: A Regional Career Fair was held in Mackinaw City. 140 job seekers attended, was a huge success. The next one will be in Gaylord on 4/6, additional fairs will be held in Grayling and Alpena.

D. Cline: Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) project has started. It involves 20 miles around Camp Grayling and 15 miles around the Alpena JTC. Tetra Tech was hired as the project Consultant. A Policy Committee has been established comprised of local, state and organizations stakeholders.

B. Wojcik: Thunderbay River Trails – Atlanta to Alpena. Working with Townships and counties to collaborate.

D. LaCourt: Department of Ag -Rural Development Grant (primarily from U.P. Mining revenues) program. 72 applications are being reviewed. 6 of those were from Region 3. 27 applications were from the U.P. Will know results in April.

L. Murray: Retention Visit scheduling is taking place. D. McKinley is working to get visits scheduled.

D. Leonard: Shared Project Tourism video (9&10 news). Discussed project taking place in Region 2.

D. McGrew: A Job Fair will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 in East Tawas. CTE millage this fall.

P. O'Donnell: It's construction season! There is a MDOT map online for resurfacing projects. For streetscape and walkability ideas and trails, contact Patty. Speed limit changes – law was passed. There will be an increase in the speed limits for selected 600 miles of freeway to 75 mph, 900 miles of state highway to 65 mph and an increase maximum truck speed limit to 65 mph.

A. Hayes: There will be an NLEA event in the spring (great attendance in the past). Event will be held at the new HS Stadium on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

A. Leininger: Informed on recruitment efforts and Spring Arbor's Organizational Management and BSW (social work) programs.

D. Baum: Updated on the Commercial Property turnover that is happening, good housing stock is selling fast and overall a shortage of Quality housing... Working on 3 Recreation grants. Watched a great show recently on NatGeo called Draining the Great Lakes, he encouraged everyone to check it out.

### **Adjournment**

Next meeting April 26, 2017 at 1:00 in Gaylord. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.