

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)
& Region 3: Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) Collaborative**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

University Center Gaylord

80 Livingston BLVD

Gaylord, MI

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 10:06 a.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. INTRODUCTIONS

WDB MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Bachmann

Rina Bethany

Ryan Charney

Erika Comerford

John Diamond

Deb Karr

Diane Rekowski- Alternate

Steve Schnell

Keri Sheer

Brooke Sprenger

Eileen Tussey

Don Wood

Steve Fosgard- Alternate

Sheryl Coyne

WDB MEMBERS ABSENT

Alan Mabarak

Deborah Larson

Lisa Bolen

Dana McGrew

Erine Adams

Allen Nash

Julie Waldron

RPI VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Bruno Wojcik

Tom Stephenson

Steve Schnell

Erich Podjaske

Doug Paulus

Keith Moore

Audra Leininger

Lucy Hoste-McCraven

Collin Hoffmeyer

Erika Comerford

Doug Baum

Rina Bethany

RPI VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Cy Wakely
Hannah Sanderson
Dana McGrew
Lisa MaComb
Luann Mabarak
Diane Love-Suvada

Mandi Chasey
Maureen Castern-French
Lisa Bolen
Dan Beltz
Brenda Bachelder
Natasha Allen

STAFF PRESENT

Tricia Selke- Clerical Support
Marisue Moreau- Director
Collin Hoffmeyer- BSP Coordinator

GUESTS/PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

Jason Reed, Michigan Carpenters & Millwrights
Donna LaCourt, MDARD
Kym Johnson, EDA of Oscoda County
Mary Hebert, Carnegie Arts and Culture Center
Jim Fults, TIA
Amy Berglund, MEDC
Alan Anderson, USDA
Tim Petrosky, Consumers Energy
Kristinia Koby, MCSC

IV. Action Item: Consent Agenda

- May 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- Career & Educational Advisory Council- Biannual Report
- July Manager's Report

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented made by Ryan Charney and seconded by Brooke Sprenger. Voted: All Ayes

V. Career & Educational Advisory Council Update

There is not an update at this time.

VI. RPI Update

Doug Baum started off by introducing Kristinia Coby. Coby is the Volunteer and Engagement Director with the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC). She wanted to introduce the commission as the states leading agency on

volunteerism and their main goal is strengthening communities. The MCSC uses Michigan's AmeriCorps, Mentor Michigan, Volunteer Michigan, and the Governor's Service Awards to achieve just that. Coby wants to start the conversation on how our area can tap into the resources that are offered. She encouraged everyone to reach out to her for any further information.

VII. Talent Update

Collin Hoffmeyer, BSP Manager, stated that he wanted to recap some things that he introduced at the last meeting. First, MI Career Quest, which is a way to give youth a chance to explore hundreds of occupations in high-demand industries and offer employers and educational institutions the opportunity to connect with tomorrow's workforce at one universal location. Hoffmeyer stated that it is currently in the planning stages for the region and hopefully will be scheduled for May or November of 2019. One of the obstacles that is currently being addressed is the best location for the geographic area. Every spot in the region tends to bring up transportation issues because of the distance people would have to travel. A possible solution might be to have two smaller MI Career Quests.

The second thing he recapped is the Business Resource Network (BRN). This was first introduced last October but was taken off the table shortly after. Hoffmeyer said it is back and definitely here to stay. BRN is currently in the planning stages and essentially will help employers with retention issues. Each employer would have a success coach that would help the employee overcome issues that would prevent them from going to work and maintaining a successful job.

Hoffmeyer stated that Manufacturing Day was a success last October and encouraged the boards to reach out to their local Business Service Professional if interested in participating.

Hoffmeyer also discussed JobsEQ which is a great tool to help with labor market information and data, especially for the rural areas. It helps identify workforce characteristics in communities and provides quality data by describing current industry and demographic trends.

The Marshall Plan was the next thing Hoffmeyer brought to the boards attention. He explained that it is a plan to create a partnership between educators, employers, and other stakeholders to transform and redesign the ways in which our state invests, develops, and attracts talent. Hoffmeyer encouraged the boards to

attend the meetings if possible. It is a great way for employers and schools to discuss ways to get on the same track. The next meeting is in Traverse City on August 8th and the one after that is in Grayling on August 29th.

a. MCAN Survey Update

The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) granted \$6000 to the Regional Prosperity Initiative for region three. With a cash match of \$5000 a proposal was created to offer \$1000 scholarships to each of the 11 counties that are in the region. The scholarships would be awarded randomly to prospective college students that responded to the survey that was created to ask questions about how they make decisions about college. College is being used as a convenient term which includes certificates and other plans after high school. There was a lower turn out rate than expected with only 156 surveys deemed eligible. The respondents were already motivated towards college with the majority having a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The survey was very helpful and the data was very interesting.

VIII. RPI Action Item

- Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion to approve the June 27, 2018 RPI minutes as presented made by Erich Podjaske and seconded by Audra Leininger. All voting aye, motion carried.

IX. RPI Financial Review

Steve Schnell pointed out one overage for the Economic Mini Grants. An invoice was accidentally billed twice and is in the process of being fixed. The Technical Assistance overage is due to staff billing that accidentally was put into another category. Schnell stated that otherwise they seem to be on track and have a lot of grant money that still needs to go out. In the Vertical Asset Inventory, some of the work is being done right now, but have not billed it yet. A lot of it will be completed in a year or a year and a half.

Motion to approve the financials as presented made by Keith Moore and seconded by Collin Hoffmeyer. All voting aye, motion carried.

X. Presentations

- Renewable Energy Programs for Business and Residential- Tim Petrosky, Cons. Energy
- USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)- Alan Anderson, USDA

XI. Community/Economic Development Updates

- a. Broadband Update- Tom Stephenson with Connect Michigan stated they are currently working with the governor's office and the state of Michigan on broadband issues throughout the state. There are two projects currently being worked on through the RPI process. The first project consists of surveys that will look at all of the policies that may be inhibiting broadband expansion. The second involves asset inventory and the exploration of 5G and more tower availability for the regular internet.
- b. Regional Ag/Local Foods- Taste the Local Difference- Doug Baum stated that the meeting in Grayling, held on July 9, had great representation from senators and representatives from all over northern Michigan. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a Regional Food Hub. This would help move local foods out of northern Michigan to southern Michigan and then potentially out of state. Since the meeting, there has been a lot of discussion at the state level with the hopes of a spring 2019 build.
- c. Youth Entrepreneurship Program
- d. Regional Entrepreneurial Network
 - i. Immersive Student Entrepreneurship Grant project
 - ii. Regional Entrepreneurial Network

Steve Schnell stated the above points, c and d, are one in the same at this stage of the game. We are currently working to build a stronger environment to support entrepreneurship in the region for both adults and youth. He also stated the grant funding is still available through the Youth Entrepreneurship Program. Due to the low response for the July 14 deadline the deadline has been extended. Only one application was received. Dana McGrew is reaching out to the local schools in hope to create more awareness and get more schools involved.

Steve also mentioned that the Regional Entrepreneurial Network had its first meeting. The discussion consisted of where the groups focus should be and who would be the most effective audience. This is still in the initial stages and the meeting generated good discussion.

XII. Group Discussion

Eric Podjaske discussed the Grayling housing issue. The city held two housing summits to discover what the barriers are. The main issue is cost and at this point cannot get MSHDA funding because of not having a high enough score. A lot of the discussion stemmed around this issue. The pilot program in Grayling, child care, and adult day care were the other issues that were spoke about during the group discussion.

XIII. Other Business

No other business.

XIV. Public Comment

No public comment.

XV. Round Table

Jason Reed reminded the boards that the Michigan Carpenters & Millwrights are creating programs to get students more interested in Skill Trades.

Amy Berglund, MEDC Toolbox Training- looking for feedback and ideas.

XVI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:25. The next RPI meeting will be Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at the Sawmill in Roscommon from 12:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The next WDB meeting will be Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at the University Center Gaylord at 10:00 a.m.

MM/TS