

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Steering Committee
April 17, 2017

WMSRDC Offices

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by John Weiss.

Present: John Weiss - GVMC
Erin Kuhn – WMSRDC
Steve Bulthuis – MACC
Rick Chapla – The Right Place
Jim Sandy – Mecosta County Development Corp.
Ed Garner – Muskegon Area First
Anne Armstrong Cusak – Office of Governor Snyder
Paul Griffith – Michigan Works! West Central
Dave Bee – West Michigan Regional Planning Commission - phone
Doug Wood – Orchard View Community Education
Crystal Young – West Shore Community College
Roger Safford - HNTB
Jennifer Owens – Lakeshore Advantage
Dan Rinsema-Sybenga – Muskegon Community College
Brenda Nyhof – Allegan Adult Education
Jim Fisher - Padnos
Dan Peterson – 8Cap
Kathy MacLean – Ludington Scottville Chamber of Commerce
Simone Jonaitis – GVSU
Pat Walstra – Kent ISD
Erick Kind - MDOT

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the March RPI Meeting. MOVE – Wood.
SUPPORT – Young. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Procedure for Appointing Steering Committee Members

John Weiss reviewed the policy that was established when the RPI program started regarding Steering Committee appointments. Each Steering Committee seat is allotted to a specific sector (higher education, community development, etc.). Initial members were appointed by their sector to represent it on the Committee. When a member leaves their place of employment and a vacancy arises on the Committee, the sector must nominate a replacement. The seat will not automatically go to the person who succeeds the former member in their place of employment.

MOTION – To Reaffirm the Process of Appointing Steering Committee Members as Nominated by the Sector they Represent. MOVE – Fisher. SUPPORT – Bulthuis. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Gov. Snyder’s Asset Management Program

The group discussed the Governor’s Asset Management Grant which GVMC, the City of Wyoming, MACC, WMSRDC, The Right Place and the City of Grand Rapids applied for jointly. The Governor’s original project scope was only for Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. The group applied for the grant with the intent to cover all 13 counties in RPI Region 4.

The grant will cover the RPI geographically, but is not an actual component of the Governor’s RPI program, so is not required to be governed by the same Board or regulations.

The deliverables of the pilot project would be accomplished through collaborative & coordinated teamwork in each of the focus areas and would include:

- Teams of subject area expertise Water/Storm/Waste, Transportation, Energy, Broadband, GIS
- Creation of an Asset Management process for each area.
- Cooperation and alignment with SEMCOG’s efforts.

The effort will have both an urban and rural focus.

Both West Michigan and SEMCOG will receive \$500,000 from the State to finance the effort. A project manager and Steering Committee in Lansing will oversee the project.

6. Approval of Budget Amendment

The initial 2017 grant request was for \$250,000. However, the amount awarded by the State was approximately \$180,000. A proposed budget amendment was reviewed which would preserve all funding previously obligated in the last round of grant awards. All other line items were reduced to account for the reduction of the award. See below:

<u>Revenues</u>		Amended 2/17	
2016 Carryover	\$56,419.20	\$56,419.20	
2017 Request	<u>\$250,000.00</u>	<u>\$180,879.00</u>	
Total Available	306,419.20	\$237,298.20	77.44234%

<u>Expenses</u>		Amended 2/17
Grant Administration/RPI Leadership	\$32,000.00	\$24,781.55
Funding of 8 Regional Projects	\$70,725.00	\$70,725.00
Region to Region Collaboration	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00
Regional Economic Analysis / Data Development / Regional Dashboard	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
Strategic Planning & Plan Refinement	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00
Regional Collaboration, Cooperation, RPI Meetings, Collaboration Efforts	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00
Priority Project Support/Financial Assistance/Staff Support of Projects	<u>\$151,194.20</u>	<u>\$117,791.65</u>
	\$306,419.20	\$237,298.20

MOTION – To Approve the RPI Budget Amendment as Outlined Above. MOVE – Fisher. SUPPORT – Kuhn. MOTION CARRIED

7. Ludington Meeting

Anne Armstrong reported on the Governor’s desire to attend the Annual July Ludington meeting. However, he is unavailable at that time. Anne will check on dates in early September.

8. Next Steps

The group had open discussion on what will happen next with the RPI Program (Project Call, etc.), especially with the initiation of the Infrastructure Asset Management program.

Steve Bulthuis indicated that he is willing to step up and take on more responsibility with strategic planning, projects, etc., as he does not foresee himself engaged as highly in the Asset Management programs as others are. Dave Bee also stated he is willing to take on more.

Doug Wood commented on using strategic planning to focus on sustainability of the program after the current governor leaves office. He also suggested looking at each sector to see how they could contribute more.

Simone Jonaitis agreed adding that each sector could be evaluated to establish the expectations, value and gaps from each.

Paul Griffith suggested using the “project” money to put toward the Asset Management program or to leverage additional funding.

9. Other

MOTION - To Replace the Adult Education Position Currently Held by Doug Wood with Pat Walstra of Kent ISD. MOVE - Young. SUPPORT - Griffith. MOTION CARRIED

10. Adjourn