

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Executive Steering Committee
May 15, 2017

Grand Rapids, MI
Grand Valley Metro Council Offices

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by John Weiss.

Present: John Weiss - GVMC
Erin Kuhn – WMSRDC
Rick Chapla – The Right Place
Dave Bee – West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
Steve Bulthuis – MACC
Jacob Maas – West Michigan Works
Paul Griffith – Michigan Works West Central

2. Public Comment

None

3. Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of April 2017. MOVE – Kuhn. SUPPORT – Griffith. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Discussion on 2017 Grant Funds

The group discussed various options of how to allocate 2017 funding. With just \$117,000 earmarked for projects, only 2 projects would most likely be funded.

Options Included:

- Steve Bulthuis discussed an additional \$10,000 funding for the Watershed Collaborative for Public Sector Consultants to do watershed funding education. Previous funding was sufficient to have a funding strategy developed, but not to present and explain it to those who would carry it out.
- Strategic Plan update – To focus on sustainability of the program beyond Gov. Snyder’s tenure. This would probably need to be done in-house.

- Rick Chapla discussed the option of using the \$117,000 funding as seed money to get various foundations to match so that more projects could be funded. The process of doing this was discussed and the need for RPI representatives to present to the foundations, as well as the difficulty of getting good project submissions when overall award funding was not pre-secured. An option was discussed using next year's funding as seed money.
- Erin Kuhn discussed using the project funding as leverage to secure additional MDOT funds for the Governor's Infrastructure Asset Management pilot program. The original ask for the 13 county Region 4 was \$1.7 million. The amount granted was only \$500,000. It is hoped RPI funding could be used as local match to secure additional transportation funds to cover work in the GVMC, MACC, and WMSRDC MPOs, freeing up the rest of the asset management funding to be used in other areas of the region.

MOTION - To Recommend to the Full RPI Steering Committee Allocation of \$10,000 to the Watershed Collaborative to be Used for Educational Purposes. MOVE - Bulthuis. SUPPORT - Kuhn. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Bulthuis will write up a memo regarding moving forward with an update to the Strategic Plan to be presented to the full RPI Steering Committee.

MOTION - To Recommend to the Full RPI Steering Committee Allocation of Up to \$100,000 to the Governor's Infrastructure Asset Management Program. MOVE - Griffith. SUPPORT - Chapla. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Other

The next meeting will be held at GVMC.

6. Adjourn - 3:30 p.m.