

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Executive Committee
February 19, 2015
2:30 p.m.
Kent County Human Services Building

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Weiss called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Present:

- John Weiss, GVMC
- Roger Safford, MDOT
- Jacob Maas, Kent-Allegan-Barry Michigan Works
- Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC
- Steve Bulthuis, MACC
- Rich Chapla, The Right Place
- Paul Griffith, Michigan Works West Central
- Simone Jonaitis - GVSU
- Valerie Byrnes – Barry County Economic Development Alliance
- Dan Rinsema-Sybenga – Muskegon Community College
- Bob Chapla – Community Foundation for Muskegon County
- Jacob Maas – Kent, Allegan, Barry County Michigan Works
- Wendy Ogilvie – Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
- Kevin Stotts – Talent 2025
- Tom Stephenson – Connect Michigan
- Jim Sandy – Mecosta County Economic Development Alliance
- Dan Manning – Connect Michigan
- Laurie Supinski – Emerge Web Connect
- Jon Wilson – Muskegon County
- Kelly Goward – MACC
- Kathy Evans - WMSRDC
- Andy Johnston – Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Bonnie Hildreth – Barry County Community Foundation
- Whitney White - ASCET
- Steve Wilson – Frey Foundation

By Conference Call

- Julie Owen – Lakeshore Advantage
- Andy Stone – Muskegon-Oceana Michigan Works
- Bill Raymond - Ottawa County Michigan Works
- Jim Fisher – Padnos, Inc.

2. **Minutes – MOTION – To Approve the January 2015 Minutes. MOVE – Kuhn. SUPPORT – Griffith. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **Project Review**

John Weiss opened the session by explaining the purposes of the meeting. The first is to inform all project groups of the vast wealth of information, contacts, support, etc. available through the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance Steering Committee. Secondly, based on this information, the project groups report what additional support they are looking for in addition to grant money. And lastly, to award grant funds to the individual projects.

Most project groups stated that in addition to the monetary support, they would like help marketing and getting the word out about their project.

- a. **Muskegon Port – Ask \$31,250. Total Project \$125,000**
 - i. MOTION – To Award \$31,250 to the Muskegon Port Project. MOTION - Safford. SUPPORT - Rinsema-Sybenga. MOTION CARRIED.
 - ii. MOTION – To Write Letter of Support on Behalf of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance. MOVE – Sandy. SUPPORT - Rinsema-Sybenga. MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Connect Michigan – Ask \$40,000. Total Project \$130,000.** Additionally, the group stated it would like help determining the right people to be included in the team, local government, economic development, local champions, etc.
 - i. MOTION – To Award \$40,000 to Connect Michigan. MOTION – Griffith. SUPPORT - Kuhn. MOTION CARRIED.
 - ii. MOTION – To Write Letter of Support on Behalf of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance. MOVE – Bulthuis SUPPORT – Rinsema-Sybenga. MOTION CARRIED.

- c. **West Michigan Regional Watershed Collaborative – Ask \$89,000. Total Project \$104,000.** The group stated it would like additional partnership organizations, as well as the input of businesses and philanthropic organizations when putting together the RFP.
 - i. MOTION – To Award \$89,000 to West Michigan Regional Watershed Collaborative. MOTION – Maas. SUPPORT - B. Chapla. MOTION CARRIED.
 - ii. MOTION – To Write Letter of Support on Behalf of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance. MOVE – Hildreth. SUPPORT – Griffith. MOTION CARRIED.

- d. **Michigan Work Ready Communities – Ask \$35,000.** Additionally the group asked for help reaching out to employers.
 - i. MOTION – To Award \$35,000 to Michigan Work Ready Communities Project. MOTION – Griffith. SUPPORT - Bulthuis. MOTION CARRIED.
 - ii. MOTION – To Write Letter of Support on Behalf of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance. MOVE – Johnston. SUPPORT – Bulthuis. MOTION CARRIED.

 - e. **Michigan Works - \$33,000. Total project \$600,000.**
 - i. It was decided the Michigan Works project was perhaps not ready to move forward at this time as it was also undergoing a merger with several branches.
 - ii. MOTION – To Write a Letter of Support in Favor of the Michigan Works Project. MOVE – Johnston. SUPPORT – Bulthuis. MOTION CARRIED.

 - f. **Emerge – Ask \$35,000.** Additionally, the group would like help getting the word out about the website & mentor connect. Would like the opportunity to present to organizations.
 - i. MOTION – To Award \$35,000 to Emerge and Write a Letter of Support on Behalf of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance. MOTION – Johnston. SUPPORT - Maas. MOTION CARRIED.
4. It was determined all of the selected projects should give a 6 month report including benchmarking.

 5. Other

John Weiss updated the group on the Governor’s Education and Economic Summit March 3 & 4 and the sessions Region 4 is coordinating. At this time there are about 90 people from this area attending, with most coming from the Education sector.

 6. Next Meeting – March 3-4 at the Governor’s Education and Economic Summit

 7. Adjourn – 4:45 p.m.