

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Steering Committee
June 20, 2016

Ludington, MI

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by John Weiss.

Present: John Weiss - GVMC
Erin Kuhn - WMSRDC
Kevin Stotts - Talent 2025
Rick Chapla - The Right Place
Doug Wood - Orchard View Public Schools
Jim Sandy - Mecosta County Development Corp.
Ed Garner - Muskegon Area First
Andy Johnston - Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Anne Armstrong Cusak - Office of Governor Snyder
Kiesha Guy - Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership
Paul Griffith - Michigan Works! West Central
Dave Bee - West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
Doug Wood - Orchard View Community Education
Jacob Maas - West Michigan Works!
Andy Johnston - Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
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
Bill Raymond - Ottawa County Community Action
Dan Peterson - 8Cap
Bill Huizenga - U.S. Congressman

2. Public Comment

None

3. Request by Muskegon Port

Erin Kuhn reported on the success of the Muskegon Port project and the upcoming Port Day, July 26. The Port of Muskegon group is requesting funding from the RPI for 1/3 (approx. \$2,500) of the Public Relations / Communications costs for the event.

MOTION - To Award the Muskegon Port Project 1/3 of their Public Relations Invoice (approx \$2,500). MOTION - Jim Sandy. SUPPORT - Jim Fisher. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Dashboard Update

Rick Chapla updated the group on the Dashboard project. The dashboard will gather economic, social and environmental data. The project is in its last call for comments phase and should be completed by September.

5. Call for Projects

Erin Kuhn reported on the Call for Projects. The Region IV West Michigan Prosperity Alliance is unique in how RPI regions use their funding. Region IV puts the majority of dollars back into the local economy by funding regionally significant projects. The initial call went out the end of May and requests are due by July 17. All requests will be reviewed according to established criteria and those that most closely match will be presented at the October 3rd meeting at the GVSU Seidman Center to be voted on. Total grant allotment = \$213,000.

Criteria for projects are:

- Long term sustainability
- Regional impact
- Opportunity for varied skills
- Regional strengths and challenges
- Public / private partnerships

6. Special Guest Congressman Bill Huizenga

Andy Johnston introduced Congressman Bill Huizenga.

Congressman Huizenga acknowledged the importance of the lakeshore area to all of Michigan and bi-partisan efforts to protect & improve both the ecosystem and economic vitality.

Issues covered include:

- Dredging
- The Badger Ferry
- Regional Cooperation
- Committee Work in Congress

7. Adjourn