

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Meeting on March 3, 2015 2:00-3:45 PM
Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit
Governor's Economic and Education Summits
Conference Day 2

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Weiss at 2:00 pm. There were 40 guests attending including Chris Harkins, DTMB who has oversight of the RPI Program in the state.

Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub: What it means for West Michigan

Erin Kuhn, Executive Director of the West Michigan Shoreline Development Commission presented a PowerPoint and spoke on the progress made thus far on the Port of Muskegon Project. This project was selected by 125 West Michigan leaders as the top "Project of Regional Economic Importance" in October of 2014. Erin described the project, its significance to not only the Muskegon area but all of Region 4. She outlined the need for a deep-water port, the unique characteristics of Muskegon's Port and the benefits of developing it as a logistics hub. She also reported that the \$31,500 grant from the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance would be matched with \$31,500 in private contributions and \$63,000 in federal EDA money to begin the first phases of the project. That initial work will be a study of all the transportation modes currently serving the port area of Muskegon.

Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Superintendent of the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency presented her program and an exciting new partnership she is developing in Fremont with Nestle-Gerber and others regarding agricultural education. Agriculture is one of the top economic drivers in our Region and her program will focus on enhancing prosperity in region.

Connected Community Engagement Program: "No one should be left behind".

Paul Griffith, Executive Director, Michigan Works! West Central and Dan Manning, of Connect Michigan presented on their efforts to develop high speed broad-band service throughout Region 4. This was also a "Project of Regional Economic Importance" that was selected in October of 2014. Paul and Dan informed the group of the progress Connect Michigan has made in their analysis of broad-band availability and the work they have planned for the future. The WMPA has awarded them a \$40,000 grant to extend their work to include all areas of our region. Our grant will be combined with a \$90,000 grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission to help accomplish the work.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Meeting on March 2, 2015 4:00-5:00 PM
Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit
Governor's Economic and Education Summits
Conference Day 1

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Weiss at 2:00 pm. There were 125 people in attendance from throughout Region 4.

Overview of Regional Prosperity Initiative: "Our Journey so far..."

John Weiss presented a PowerPoint presentation on the process and history of the RPI effort and the work completed by Region 4. The presentation included key points including membership, history, public meetings, a financial update, the develop of the Regional Prosperity Plan, development of criteria at the 2014 Governor's Economic Summit, the selected Projects of Regional Economic Importance. It was a thorough history of the process to date and an outlook for the future.

Impacts, Importance and Critical Issues of Immigration in West Michigan.

Bing Goei, Director of the Office for New Americans, discussed with the group the critical importance of immigration in our region. His presentation discussed the work of his group, Governor Snyder's emphasis on immigration and how immigration impacts all areas of our economy.

Key Data and Logistics

Tom Rico of the MEDC, presented key data on logistics in our region and state. He focused on transportation and logistics and the critical nature of those factors in our economic recovery.

Governor Snyder and his staff also joined the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.