

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Executive Committee
January 29, 2015
11:00 a.m.
MDOT Offices

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Weiss called the meeting to order at 11:00 am

Present: John Weiss, GVMC
Roger Safford, MDOT
Jacob Maas, Kent-Allegan-Barry Michigan Works
Dave Bee, WMRPC
Dennis Kent, MDOT
Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC
Steve Bulthuis, MACC
Rich Chapla, The Right Place
Paul Griffith, Michigan Works West Central
Andy Stone – Muskegon-Oceana Michigan Works
Simone Jonaitis - GVSU
Valerie Byrnes – Barry County Economic Development Alliance
Dan Rinsema-Sybenga – Muskegon Community College
Ed Garner – Muskegon Area First
Bob Chapla – Community Foundation for Muskegon County
Jacob Maas – Kent, Allegan, Barry County Michigan Works
Kevin Stotts – Talent 2025
Andy Johnston – Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Doug Wood – Orchardview Public Schools
Bonnie Hildreth – Barry County Community Foundation
Steve Wilson – Frey Foundation

By Conference Call
Bill Adair – Lakeshore Advantage
Lisa Stitch – West Shore Community College
Jim Sandy – Mecosta County Economic Development Alliance
Fiona Hert – GRCC
Bill Raymond - Ottawa County Michigan Works
Linda Brand – Model Communities Initiative
Jim Fisher – Padnos, Inc.

2. Minutes – MOTION – To Approve the December 2014 Minutes. MOVE – Kuhn. SUPPORT – Griffith. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Finance Report

John Weiss reviewed the finance report. Total expenses from the 2014 RPI grant were \$55,056 as the group was purposely frugal so that the \$194,944 remaining funds could be carried forward in 2015 to help fund projects. John has not heard anything further from the State on the 2015 grant other than they received our grant request.

MOTION – To Accept the Finance Report. MOVE – Bulhuis. SUPPORT – Maas. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Steering Committee Membership

John Weiss reported all current members have indicated they would like to stay on the committee. Deb retired and is being replaced by Andy Stone. Bill Adair was the interim representative and is being replaced by Jennifer Owens. Paul Griffith will be secretary with either Gayle McCrath or Dave Bee taking minutes.

Rick Chapla reported on the new members from the philanthropic community. Diana Sieger was asked to pick a total of five members. The representatives were chosen based on their willingness to serve, geographic area, and years of experience. Those representatives are:

- Diana Sieger – Grand Rapids Foundation
- Bob Chapla – Community Foundation for Muskegon County
- Steve Wilson – Frey Foundation
- Bonnie Hildreth – Barry County Community Foundation
- Carol Paine McGovern – Paine Family Foundation

5. Executive Summary

Erin distributed the Executive Summary she and Steve put together. Erin and Steve will look at branding and logos and have something out to everyone before the next meeting so it can be approved and printed by February 19.

Discussion included talent being added to the goals as well as lifelong learning. Also suggested is the first point “economic distress” being changed to “addressing economic”.

Dave Bee pointed out that the wording was pulled right off of the plan approved at the October 2014 meeting. Changing these items would be changing the plan.

Kevin Stotts suggested it may be beneficial to review the plan.

Andy Johnston also suggested the document include a notation for further information, sign up for newsletter, web address, etc.

John Weiss asked everyone to review and have their changes back to Erin & Steve within 2 weeks so we can move forward with the finalization and printing of the Executive Summary.

6. Grant Application

Dave Bee reviewed the draft grant application.

There was much discussion on what types of questions should be asked, including timeline, milestones, and deliverables, funding and leveraged funding. It was pointed out that the 6 projects have already been approved, so this many of the typical grant application questions have already been answered. What we need to know is what they want from the RPI group: funding & how much, various types of support and connections the members have that can facilitate these projects, etc.

It was determined all 6 project groups will be invited to the next meeting and the RPI Steering Committee will present to them to let them know the expertise and connections available to them thru Steering Committee members. The project groups will be informed ahead of time as to the purpose of the meeting and asked to come prepared regarding the needs they have already identified (funding goals, etc.).

Bonnie Hildreth will contact Dave Bee to review the questions on the application which will be forwarded to the project groups prior to the February meeting.

John will contact each group to inform them of the meeting & its purpose; forward them a copy of the application; and ask that they come as prepared as possible to state the needs already identified.

John stated these should be seed projects which are helped to get started and then spun off rather than creating a dependent relationship between the project groups and the RPI Alliance.

7. Communications Plan

Rick Chapla stated he felt the next step would be to do some logo and template development. He will have the Communications committee get together and make a consensus on those items.

8. Other

The Executive Summary will be completed and distributed at the March Governor's Economic and Education Summit

9. Action Items

- **John will write letters to project groups inviting them to the February meeting, informing them of the intent of the meeting, including the application and asking them to be as prepared as possible with their requests for assistance.**
- **Bonnie will work with Dave to finalize the wording on the application.**
- **Rick Chapla will convene the Communications Committee to finalize logo and templates, and will forward that to Erin & Steve for the finalization of the Executive Summary.**
- **Everyone is to get their suggestions for the Executive Summary to Erin and Steve within 2 weeks.**

10. Next Meeting – February 19, 2:30 – 4:30

Kent County Human Services Complex
121 Franklin St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Community Action Suite---Multipurpose Room

Agenda
Governor's Summit
Finalize Executive Summary
Meet with Projects

11. Adjourn – 1:45 p.m.