



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

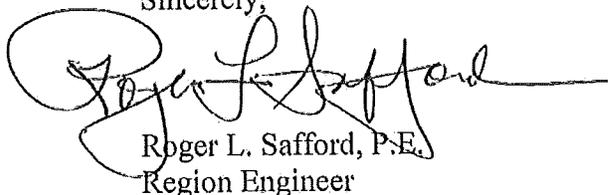
Dear John:

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Grand Region Office, I would like to express our support for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's (GVMC) collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The GVMC application has the support of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, all agencies with contractual and operational relationships with MDOT. The MDOT Grand Region staff will provide any assistance needed to GVMC, and your partner agencies, to make this initiative a success.

Please feel free to contact me if we can be of further help in the application process or during the implementation phase.

Sincerely,



Roger L. Safford, P.E.
Region Engineer

BOH:GRAND:RLS:DK:ck

cc: D. Wresinski
D. McBurrows

Grand Region Office
1420 Front Ave., NW, Grand Rapids
Michigan, 49504



October 8, 2013

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
3000 NORTH STILES ROAD
P.O. BOX 277
SCOTTVILLE, MICHIGAN 49454-0277
231/843-5540

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Subject: West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

Dear Mr. Weiss:

West Shore Community College supports the idea of thinking globally, planning regionally and acting locally, as presented by the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Based on Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature's creation of the *Regional Prosperity Initiative*, WSCC endorses the idea to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

We are excited to be a part of the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative, serving a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

West Shore Community College endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Dillon", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Charles T. Dillon, President
West Shore Community College

Commissioner Groenleer offered the following resolution in support of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

**Resolution of Support
Grand Valley Metropolitan's Application
West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, Local and State government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a thirteen County area which includes over 340 Local Governments, five higher education institutions, six Work Force Boards, three Metropolitan Planning Organizations, two Regional Planning Agencies, three Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our thirteen County region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the \$250,000.00 grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kent County Road Commission hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

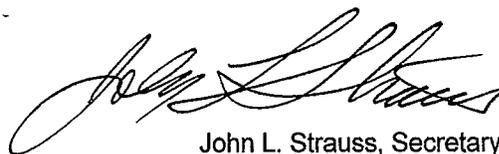
Moved by Commissioner Groenleer, seconded by Commissioner Malone that the Board **adopt the resolution of support** of the **Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application** on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance, as recommended by Staff.

Motion carried by the following vote:

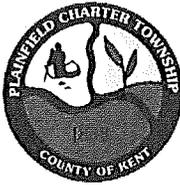
Yeas: Commissioners Rambo, Groenleer, Malone, Stellin and Wahlfield - 5.

Nays: 0.

I, John L. Strauss, Secretary of the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kent, do hereby certify that the above resolution was passed by unanimous vote of said Board on the eighth day of October 2013.



John L. Strauss, Secretary
**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF KENT
STATE OF MICHIGAN**



"Rolling Plains and Beautiful Fields"

PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE WEST MICHIGAN PROSPERITY ALLIANCE

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Plainfield Charter Township Board of Trustees hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on October 7, 2013 by the Plainfield Charter Township Board of Trustees.

October 9, 2013



Mr. John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

RE: Support of Grand Valley Metro Council's Collaborative Application for the
Regional Prosperity Initiative – Region 4

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The Barry County Economic Development Alliance (BCEDA) has been an active participant in the West Michigan Economic Development Collaborative (Region 4) since its inception. The Right Place and Lakeshore Advantage have served as key leadership in the capacity of Strategic Partners on behalf of Region 4. We look forward to continuing this productive and visionary partnership amongst all 13 counties involved within West Michigan.

More recently, Governor Snyder called for a more cohesive collaboration including a broader base of multiple stakeholders across Region 4 to include economic development, workforce development, education, regional planning and transportation agencies.

An application for State funding to prepare the five-year regional prosperity plan is being coordinated by Region 4 with the Grand Valley Metro Council as lead applicant. The Barry County Economic Development Alliance is fully supportive of this application and endorses this collaborative effort to prepare the regional prosperity plan on behalf of Region 4.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Byrnes".

Valerie Byrnes
President

phone:
269.945.2454

fax:
269.945.3839

221 W. State Street
Hastings, MI 49058

miBARRY.com

IT'S IN OUR NATURE

16201 PORT SHELDON STREET
WEST OLIVE, MICHIGAN 49460

TELEPHONE 616-399-6121
FAX 616-399-7173

PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY

October 11, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Port Sheldon Township Board is providing this letter of endorsement in support of your application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The goal of establishing stronger local and regional collaboration is a worthy endeavor that will help drive economic investment, lead to greater quality of place and increase business and talent attraction.

We appreciate the latitude the state has provided local leaders in developing the process they want to pursue in establishing stronger local and regional collaboration and want to thank the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for their willingness to be the applicant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We will continue to be engaged in this effort through our participation in the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council and hope the application request is fully funded.

Sincerely,



Howard Baumann, Jr., Supervisor



616.396.2154
www.miottawa.org/michiganworks
Michigan Relay Center callers use 711 or 800.649.3777

October 11, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Ottawa County Workforce Development Board/Michigan Works is pleased to provide this letter of support regarding your application to obtain grant funding for regional planning from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). Michigan Works has been strongly involved in regional workforce initiatives and fully supports the goal of establishing broader and stronger regional collaboration among a wider variety of groups such as economic development, education, transportation and regional planning entities. We believe that such work will result in a stronger economy in West Michigan and increased opportunities for all citizens of the area, especially as we focus on attracting and developing the businesses and talent that are necessary for a vibrant region and economy.

As one of the five groups identified by the RPI as a required participant, we fully support the choice of the Grand Valley Metro Council to coordinate this grant application. We look forward to working with the Grand Valley Metro Council and other partners in further development of regional planning, ideas and projects and appreciate the opportunity to help develop a process that results in a strong regional approach while allowing for robust local implementation of creative ideas and partnerships.

We strongly encourage the State of Michigan to fully support the application and stand ready to help in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional input or support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Tuttle".

Chad Tuttle, Chair
Ottawa County Workforce Development Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Raymond".

Bill Raymond, LMSW, Executive Director
Ottawa County Michigan Works

Holland
121 Clover Street
Holland, MI 49423
P. 616.396.2154
F. 616.396.1597

Grand Haven
1830 172nd Avenue, Ste. K
Grand Haven, MI 49417
P. 616.296.0776
F. 616.296.0819

Administrative Offices
115 Clover Street, Suite 200
Holland, MI 49423
P. 616.494.3400
F. 616.494.3434



Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium
904 Oak Drive • Greenville, MI 48838
1 (616) 754-9315 • TTY: 711
Fax: (616) 754-9310 • www.camwc.org

October 10, 2013

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Street NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: Letter of Support for GVMC's Regional Prosperity Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weiss:

The Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium (CAMWC) supports the Regional Prosperity Grant Application being submitted by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) in collaboration with the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. CAMWC is ready to be a strong partner in the regional planning process and looks forward to working with GVMC and all of the partners of the West Michigan Prosperity Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Petersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Daniel Petersen
Administrator



Muskegon Area First
380 W. Western, Suite 202
Muskegon, MI 49440
(231) 724-3172 direct
(231) 728-7251 fax
muskegonareafirst.org

October 9, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon Area First (a county-wide economic development corporation) in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning & transportation, local & state government, and private business.

The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Garner
President & CEO



Serving Newaygo County

For **good**. For **ever**®

October 10, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

In response to the Regional Prosperity Initiative, created by Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature, the Fremont Area Community Foundation supports Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The focus of the Regional Prosperity Initiative is in alignment with the strategic framework of the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Community and economic development is one of our five key focus areas and we see a strong role for the nonprofit sector to assist in achieving positive evidence-based outcomes as well as a sustainable local economy. Our Foundation is committed to addressing the high rate of unemployment and underemployment in Newaygo County. As we continue to make community and economic development grants, we are researching ways to use our grantmaking and community leadership position to strengthen and grow our local economy.

We understand that only four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region were qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative. We endorse the decision of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission in requesting that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Fremont Area Community Foundation heartily endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla A. Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carla A. Roberts
President & CEO



STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF NEWAYGO
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

At a regular session of the said Board, held in the City of White Cloud, in said County,
on the 9th day of October 2013, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION #10-022-13
IN SUPPORT OF GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S
APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE WEST MICHIGAN PROSPERITY ALLIANCE

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, , the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Motion by: Maike Seconded by: Ortwein, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

The Ayes being: Deur, Gardner, Lethorn, Maike, Nieboer, Ortwein, Trapp

Nays: 0 Absent: 0

The Resolution was adopted
on October 9, 2013

Patrick Gardner, Chairman
Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF NEWAYGO)

I, Laurel J. Breuker, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on the 9th day of October 2013.

Laurel J. Breuker
Newaygo County Clerk



Muskegon Site

316 Morris Avenue,
Suite 300
Muskegon, MI 49440

Phone 231.724.6381
Fax 231.724.6687

Shelby Site

7 N Michigan Avenue
Shelby, MI 49455

Phone 231.861.2073
Fax 231.861.6300

www.miworksmo.org

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Michigan Works! Muskegon-Oceana in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Groeneveld".

Deborah Groeneveld
Director, Michigan Works! Muskegon-Oceana

Muskegon County, Department of Employment & Training

Sponsored in part by the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan, Michigan Works!, through your local Workforce Development Board and Muskegon County Board of Commissioners. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities EEO/ADA/Employer/Programs - TTY# - 711.

MUSKEGON COUNTY

M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kenneth Mahoney
Chair, District 9

Rillastine R. Wilkins
Vice-Chair, District 1

Benjamin E. Cross
District 2

James J. Derezinski
District 7

Marvin R. Engle
District 5

Susie Hughes
District 3

Charles Nash
District 6

Terry J. Sabo
District 8

Robert Scolnik
District 4

October 8, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon County in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Mahoney, Chair
Muskegon County Board of Commissioners

/lme

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

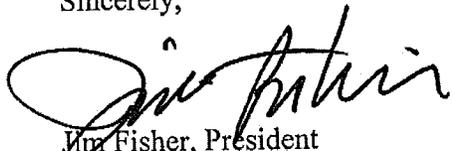
Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of PADNOS-Shoreline Recycling Division (Muskegon), in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Fisher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Jim Fisher, President
PADNOS-Shoreline Recycling Division

MUSKEGON COUNTY

M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 7, 2013

Kenneth Mahoney
Chair, District 9

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Rillastine R. Wilkins
Vice-Chair, District 1

Benjamin E. Cross
District 2

Dear Mr. Weiss,

James J. Derezinski
District 7

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon Area Transit System in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Marvin R. Engle
District 5

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

Susie Hughes
District 3

Charles Nash
District 6

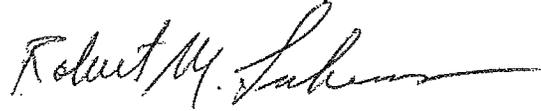
Terry J. Sabo
District 8

The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

Robert Scolnik
District 4

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,



Robert Lukens
Community Development Director, Muskegon County



MUSKEGON AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM • 2624 SIXTH STREET • MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN 49444
(231) 724-6420 • FAX (231) 830-1607 • www.matsbus.com

An EEO / ADA Employer
recycled paper



Muskegon Community College

Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D., President

October 9, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon Community College in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations. As an institution of higher education we believe we can benefit by collaborating with our partners and other organizations in the region to better serve our constituents.

Moreover, we believe this funding will allow West Michigan to build upon successful regional initiatives such as Talent 2025, which is quickly becoming a national model for collaboration among business, education, and talent development groups. I strongly urge the granting agency to give full consideration to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Nesbary', written over a circular stamp.

Dr. Dale Nesbary
President, Muskegon Community College

Board of Trustees

Donald Crandall, MD, Chair ♦ Diana Osborn, Vice-Chair ♦ Dorothy Lester, Treasurer ♦ Nancy Frye, Secretary
Sean Mullally, Trustee ♦ Ann Oakes, Trustee ♦ Roy Portenga, Trustee

221 South Quarterline, Muskegon MI 49442 ♦ (231) 773-0303 ♦ muskegoncc.edu



ORCHARD VIEW
Community Education

A Division Of Orchard View Schools

*Inspiring you to LEARN.
Encouraging you to PLAY.*

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Orchard View Community Education in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

Doug Wood

Director, Orchard View Community Education

*Orchard View Community Education –
1765 Ada Street, Muskegon, MI 49442 – 231.760.1350*



ORCHARD VIEW
Community Education
A Division Of Orchard View Schools

*Inspiring you to LEARN.
Encouraging you to PLAY.*

Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the **Orchard View Community Education** program hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on October 8, 2013 by Doug Wood, Director.

*Orchard View Community Education –
1765 Ada Street, Muskegon, MI 49442 – 231.760.1350*



380 W. WESTERN AVE. STE 202 MUSKEGON, MI 49440 • P: 231.772.3751 • F: 231.778.7451 • MUSKEGON.ORG

APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

October 10, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We believe regionalism is the best way to manage a number of planning activities, infrastructure developments, educational and workforce programs and provide service delivery.

However, it is important that the new alliance provide tools for collaboration, not just opportunities for dialogue. New governing boundaries must be drawn, incentives provided and service delivery areas realigned.

If actionable activities are part of this funding, we believe it will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Larsen".

Cindy Larsen
President, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE
HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD
SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

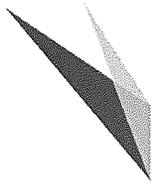
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Village of Middleville hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on Oct. 8, 2013 by the Village of Middleville

Please Return to:

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Elaine Renton
Clerk



THE RIGHT PLACE

Advancing the West Michigan Economy

CHAIR

Michelle Van Dyke
Fifth Third Bank – Michigan

VICE-CHAIR

Richard C. Breon
Spectrum Health

TREASURER

Brian Walker
Herman Miller, Inc.

Rick Baker

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Sam Cummings

CWD Real Estate Investment

Daryl J. Delabbio

Kent County

Doug DeVos

Amway Corp.

James E. Dunlap

Huntington National Bank

Dennis Eidson

Spartan Stores

Steven C. Ender, Ed.D.

Grand Rapids Community College

Dan Gaydou

Milve Media Group

Thomas J. Haas

Grand Valley State University

James P. Hackett

Steakcase Inc.

Brian Harris

H & H Metal Source

Richard Haslinger

Chase

Paul Hillemonds

TE Energy

Don Hillon

Gaines Township

William Johnson

Representing The Fremont Area Community Foundation and the Newaygo County Economic Development Office

Mitchell Joppich

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

John C. Kennedy

Autocam Corporation

Birgit M. Klohs

The Right Place, Inc.

Blake W. Krueger

Wolverine World Wide, Inc.

Hank Meijer

Meijer, Inc.

Lawrence J. Murphy

Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett LLP

Craig A. Mutch

Miller Johnson

Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.

Davenport University

John C. Porterfield

Comerica Bank

Robert W. Roth

RoMan Manufacturing, Inc.

John G. Russell

Consumers Energy Company

Robert C. Shaver

Rhoades McKee PC

Greg Sundstrom

City of Grand Rapids

Chris Thelen

Consumers Energy
Representing the Ionia County Economic Alliance

David Van Andel

Van Andel Institute

Mike VanGessel

Rockford Construction Company, Inc.

Douglas E. Wagner

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP

Sean Welsh

The PNC Financial Services Group

October 8, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: Right Place, Inc. Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Collaborative Application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear John:

Nearly three years ago, at the urging of Governor Snyder and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, economic development organizations across Michigan began organizing regional economic development partnerships and collaborations. The Right Place and Lakeshore Advantage convened the economic developers from 13 counties – forming Region 4.

Today there are ten regions across Michigan. Members of these economic development partnerships are working together to leverage each region's resources to create and retain jobs and investment, and work on potential solutions to common issues facing the region.

Recently, Governor Snyder, recognizing the rapidly changing economic forces impacting our State, called for even closer collaboration among additional stakeholders. He asked for and received funding from the State Legislature to launch the "Regional Prosperity Initiative".

These stakeholders include economic development organizations, workforce development, education, regional planning and transportation agencies, as well as local governments and private sector interests.

An application for State funding to prepare the five-year "Prosperity Plan" is being coordinated for Region 4 by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. The Right Place is fully supportive and engaged in this application effort and strongly endorses this collaborative effort to prepare a regional prosperity plan.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Birgit M. Klohs
President & CEO



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 30, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

It is a pleasure to provide this letter strongly supporting the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. The cooperation between the GVMC, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission to have the GVMC be the sole applicant speaks to a clear unity of purpose in West Michigan.

As an institution that has Collaboration as one of its Core Values, Ferris State University appreciates and supports this cooperation and shared purpose. By working together, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will best service its 13-county area encompassing more than 300 local governments and the numerous organizations that support its educational and economic needs.

Since our university has major campuses in both Big Rapids and Grand Rapids, we have a unique perspective on the need for institutions to work together for the betterment of West Michigan. It is with the benefit of that perspective, and with our willingness to be an active partner in this process, that Ferris State University supports GVMC's collaborative application for a Regional Prosperity Initiative. If you additional information is required, I would encourage you to contact me at 231-591-2500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Eisler".

David L. Eisler
President



272 East 8th Street • Holland, MI 49423
149 East Main Avenue • Zeeland, MI 49464
616-392-2389 • 616-392-7379 (fax)
info@westcoastchamber.org
www.westcoastchamber.org

October 4, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support your application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI).

The West Coast Chamber was launched in September 2012 with the merger of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce and the Zeeland Chamber of Commerce. We represent 1,300 member firms with 62,000 employees.

The goal of establishing stronger local and regional collaboration is an important initiative that will help drive economic investment, lead to greater quality of place and increase business and talent attraction.

Thank you for your role in this important effort and I hope that the State of Michigan favorably reviews the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Clark".

Jane Clark
President

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y

October 3, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

On behalf of Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, I wanted to take this opportunity to give my enthusiastic support for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

I also fully support the intent of the newly created Regional Prosperity Initiative to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

I believe the metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies within the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative boundaries have already demonstrated superior cooperation by quickly coming together to designate Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the sole applicant.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,



Marsha D. Rappley, MD
Dean and Professor

MDR:mab



**College of
Human Medicine**

Office of the Dean

15 Michigan Street NE
Suite 450
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-233-1678
Fax: 616-234-2625
humanmedicine.msu.edu

Board of County Road Commissioners Of Allegan County

1308 LINCOLN ROAD

ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN 49010-9762

TELEPHONE (269) 673-2184

www.alleganroads.org

FAX (269) 673-5922

EXTRACT COPY

The following is an extract copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Allegan County, held in the office in Allegan on Wednesday, October 2, 2013.

"It was moved by Commissioner Kleinheksel and seconded by Commissioner Kaarlie to approve the resolution in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as follows:

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Allegan County Road Commission hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Commissioners Culver, Kaarlie, and Kleinheksel
 NAYS: None"

I hereby certify that the above is a true extract copy of the Resolution taken from the minutes of the Board of County Road Commissioners regular meeting of October 2, 2013.


Larry Brown - Clerk



October 4, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Lakeshore Advantage presents this letter of endorsement in full support of your application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The goal to establish stronger local and regional collaboration is an essential endeavor in supporting economic investment. At the same time, it leads to greater quality of place while increasing business and talent attraction.

As a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Collaborative Development Council, our organization is related to one of the five target groups identified by the RPI as a required participant. We appreciate the latitude the state has provided local leaders in developing the process they want to pursue in establishing stronger local and regional collaboration. We also want to thank the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for their willingness to be the applicant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We will continue to be actively engaged in this effort and hope the state fully funds the application.

Sincerely,

Randy Thelen,
President



October 7, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. Ste 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John:

Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative for our state. This Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area that includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations. However, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative. It is my understanding that the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

On behalf of Grand Valley State University, please accept this letter from me to show my support for Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haas', written over a circular stamp.

Thomas J. Haas
President

Thomas J. Haas
President



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE
HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD
SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Allendale Charter Township hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on October 4, 2013 by Jerry Alkema, Township Supervisor

Please Return to:

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Ottawa County Road Commission

14110 Lakeshore Drive
P.O. Box 739
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
Phone (616) 842-5400 Fax (616) 850-7237

October 7, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The Ottawa County Road Commission is pleased to provide this letter of endorsement in support of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Councils application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The goal of establishing stronger local and regional collaboration is a worthy endeavor that will help drive economic investment, lead to greater quality of place and increase business and talent attraction.

The Ottawa County Road Commission appreciates the latitude the state has provided local leaders in developing the process they want to pursue in establishing stronger local and regional collaboration and wants to thank the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for their willingness to be the applicant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Ottawa County Road Commission will continue to be engaged in this effort through our participation in the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council and Macatawa Area Coordinating Council and hope the application request is fully funded.

Sincerely,



Brett A. Laughlin, P.E.
Managing Director

Cc: Steve Bulthuis, Executive Director – Macatawa Area Coordinating Council

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

October 22, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

On behalf of Western Michigan University, I would like to offer our support for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's (GVMC) collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning, transportation agencies, local and state government and private companies. As WMU has programs deployed throughout West Michigan, including the geographic area served by GVMC, such an effort aligns with goals important to our university. I understand members of our team, including Bob Miller, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach, and Dawn Gaymer, Associate Provost for Extended University Programs, have been involved with this effort as well.

Please feel free to contact my office if we can be of further help in this application process.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Dunn".

John M. Dunn
President

c: Birgit Klohn
Dawn Gaymer
Bob Miller
Greg Rosine



143 Bostwick Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-3295
616-234-3901 FAX 616-234-3907

PRESIDENT-TRUSTEE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 30, 2013

John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. Ste 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Grand Rapids Community College is a committed partner in the effort to bring representatives of adult education, workforce, economic development, transportation and higher education together to share issues of regional importance that will surely help us achieve our goals for greater regional economic prosperity.

GRCC wholeheartedly endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Please feel free to contact me directly should you need anything.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ender", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven C. Ender, Ed.D
President



CITY HALL

3195 Wilson Avenue
Grandville, MI 49418-1274
Phone 616.531.3030
Fax 616.530.4984

September 23, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids MI 49504

RE: GVMC's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Mayor Buck and I have both attended recent presentations regarding the West Michigan Prosperity Initiative -- a collaborative effort to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work force development, regional planning and transportation, local and state government and the private sector in 13 West Michigan counties.

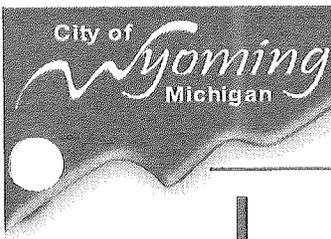
We understand that only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in this region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative created by Governor Snyder and the Michigan legislature. We further understand that the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Mayor and I would offer this letter of support heartily endorsing the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Krombeen
City Manager

James R. Buck
Mayor



Office of the Mayor

Telephone 616/530-7227

1155 - 28th Street, S.W., Box 905 Wyoming, Michigan 49509-0905

Web: www.wyomingmi.gov



MAYOR
Jack A. Poll

AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER
Sam Bolt

AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER
Dan Burrill

AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER
Kent Vanderwood

1ST WARD COUNCILMEMBER
William A. VerHulst

2ND WARD COUNCILMEMBER
Richard K. Pastoor

3RD WARD COUNCILMEMBER
Joanne M. Voorhees

CITY MANAGER
Curtis L. Holt

September 25, 2013

John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave, NE
Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the City of Wyoming, we are writing in support of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Regional Prosperity Initiative grant application.

The City of Wyoming has a long standing tradition of working cooperatively with neighboring communities and non-profit partners. Wyoming fully realizes that stronger local and regional collaboration will drive economic investment and that the success of a strong economic development strategy includes leaders in business development, talent development and infrastructure development communities uniting in a common vision and strategy. Wyoming encourages greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

The City of Wyoming endorses the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance and requests that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant.

Sincerely,



Jack A. Poll
Mayor



Curtis Holt
City Manager

Zeeland/Holland
Adult Education
616-494-8803
115 Clover Ave
Holland, MI 49423

**Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the **Zeeland/Holland Adult Education Program** which operates adult education programs in Zeeland, Holland, Grand Haven, and Coopersville hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on September 30, 2013 by:

Michael O'Connor, Director
Zeeland/Holland Adult Education Program
115 Clover St.
Holland, MI 49423
Phone: 616-494-3416
moconnor@zps.org
Cell # 616-915-1881

WMSRDC
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

September 27, 2013

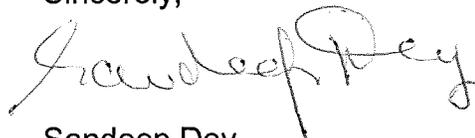
Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

This letter will document that the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), which provides services to eleven (11) of the thirteen (13) counties in the new West Michigan Region, supports the grant application of the Grand Valley Metro Council for the preparation of a Regional Prosperity Plan. Further, WMSRDC agrees to participate in the Committee being organized to oversee the preparation of the Regional Prosperity Plan.

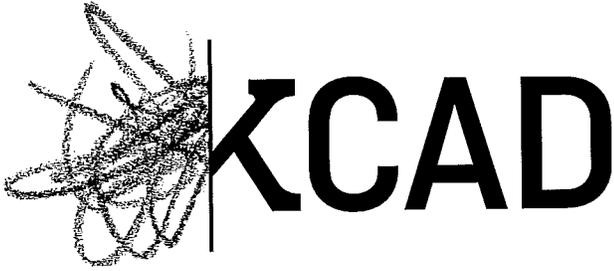
The vision articulated by the plan will benefit the growth and development of the new West Michigan Region.

Sincerely,



Sandeep Dey
Executive Director

SD:ms



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
HQ: Grand Rapids, MI

30 September 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

I am writing to provide the support of Kendall College of Art & Design's to Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative specifically to link institutions like Kendall College of Art & Design with other public and private organizations that contribute to the region's economic development and prosperity.

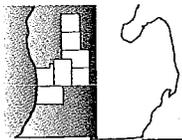
As you know, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13-county area that comprises wide and numerous varieties of partners. However, only four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13-county region qualify to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

This letter confirms Kendall College of Art & Design's endorsement of GVMC as the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We at KCAD are excited about this initiative and its potential for making positive and lasting change for West Michigan, its people, and the organizations that help to serve them. We are honored to support you and to be part of that effort.

David Rosen, President
Kendall College of Art & Design

WMRPC



WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

820 Monroe Avenue NW ♦ Suite 214 ♦ Grand Rapids, MI 49503 ♦ (616) 774-8400 ♦ www.wmrpc.org

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION

Resolution adopted by the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting of September 20, 2013:

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan's Regional Planning Agencies, Work Force Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance, comprised of two Prosperity Regions, includes the thirteen counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance includes four eligible applicants (West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, and Macatawa Area Coordinating Council) to apply for funding to implement the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the four eligible applicants mentioned above have met to establish a cooperative approach and have agreed to submit a joint application to the State of Michigan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Michigan Planning Commission supports the Regional Prosperity Initiative and agrees to support the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the grant applicant and will assist in implementing the Regional Prosperity Initiative at a level appropriate with an agreed upon work program and level compensation.

MOVED BY: Tom Lindeman

SUPPORTED BY: David VanderKooi

DONALD DISSELKOEN
Chairperson

September 20, 2013

Date

JOHN JOHANSEN
Vice Chairperson

September 20, 2013

Date

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To assist planning efforts in community and economic development, provide a regional forum for sharing information and ideas, and promote cooperative solutions to regional issues.



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL
MAYOR

September 23, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John:

I am writing to express the City of Grand Rapids' support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Grand Rapids is looking forward to the results the Regional Prosperity Initiative can provide such as fostering greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

I am confident to support Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application. Please feel free to contact my office at any time if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George K. Heartwell", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

George K. Heartwell



GRAND RAPIDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 19, 2013

Mr. John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, I write to support Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's (GVMC) application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Collaboration, cooperation and public-private partnerships are all hallmarks of the West Michigan community. It is fantastic to see that GVMC is working closely with and being supported by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission as the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for this grant.

The thirteen county region will be served well by this alliance as this is no small undertaking. The work to unite communities from Lundington to Hastings behind a shared plan will be significant, as it encompasses hundreds of organizations and more than 1.4 million citizens. I feel confident that GVMC and its partners are up to the task.

Again, the Chamber supports and endorses your application and looks forward to working with you, your organization and stakeholders from around the region to make this effort a success.

Sincerely,

Rick Baker
President & CEO

111 Pearl St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
T 616.771.0300
F 616.771.0318
www.grandrapids.org



CITY of WALKER

4243 Remembrance Road, N.W.
Walker, Michigan 49534
(616) 453-6311

September 23, 2013

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave., N.W.
Suite 200
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

RE: Letter of support for grant application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the City of Walker, please accept this letter confirming our endorsement of the Grand Valley Metro Council's collaborative grant application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The West Michigan region has a long and successful history of forging many cooperative ventures and partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sectors. It is imperative that we continue to embrace new opportunities to formalize these relationships, and together, develop common goals and a vision to position our State to achieve greater economic growth and success into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to extend our support of the grant application under Governor Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Vander Meulen,
City Manager



301 East Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331
Phone (616) 897-8457
Fax (616) 897-4085
www.ci.lowell.mi.us

September 19, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave., Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear Mr. Weiss:

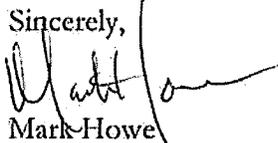
The City of Lowell supports the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We understand that the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

West Michigan is a leading example of regional collaboration, supported by the fact that the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

As a long-time member of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council we continue to support efforts for regional collaboration.

Sincerely,


Mark Howe
Lowell City Manager



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

3275 Central Blvd.
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426-1450
phone 616.669.0200
fax 616.669.2330

September 19, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Re: Letter of Support – West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear John:

Thank you for taking the time to make a presentation on the (West) Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative to our West Michigan Local Government Manager's group yesterday.

After further considering this initiative, and the numerous benefits it could offer to our local and state economy, I am writing to express my full support of this effort on behalf of the City of Hudsonville.

My understanding is that the West Michigan Prosperity Initiative will collectively represent a 13 county area including over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 4 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations in an effort to obtain grant funding for various infrastructure improvements and other, yet-to-be-determined economic stimulators.

Furthermore, I am proud to hear that the Grand Valley Metro Council has been selected by its counterpart organizations to be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for this grant. I believe this a great testament to not only your strong leadership, but also our organization's past success with collaborative and cooperative partnerships in West Michigan.

I wish you great success in this momentous endeavor.

Warm regards,

Patrick B. Waterman
Hudsonville City Manager



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE
HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD
SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Starting Block, Inc. hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on Oct. 25, 2013 by Ronald Steiner

Ronald Steiner, Executive Director, The Starting Block, Inc.

Please Return to:

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504