

Minutes

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
Executive Committee
December 9, 2014
2:00 p.m.
GVMC Offices, Grand Rapids

1. CALL TO ORDER:

John Weiss called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

Present: John Weiss, GVMC
 Roger Safford, MDOT
 Jacob Maas, Kent-Allegan-Barry Michigan Works
 Dave Bee, WMRPC
 Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC
 Steve Bulthuis, MACC
 Rich Chapla, The Right Place
 Paul Griffith, Michigan Works West Central

2. Items to be completed December 2014 –January 2015

John Weiss reported it has been quiet the last couple of months since the wrap up of the 2014 RPI Grant. The budget has changed a little for 2015 as WMSA used the expected \$5,000 RPI contribution to pay for legal work associated with its closure.

John asked Paul to serve as Secretary as Deb Groeneveld is retiring. Paul indicated he would accept the position, but would need help handling minutes. John stated Paul could have staff help or whoever is hosting the meeting could contribute staff time.

John reported there seemed to be some scope-creep regarding transportation expectations and deliverables in Lansing. It was decided that the transportation project requested by Lansing will be handled outside of the RPI grant by those partners involved in transportation and planning.

November & December Items

Amendments – John stated he hadn't heard comments or questions back on the 2014 grant report or the 2015 grant request. It was decided no amendments were needed at this time.

Executive Summary – A subcommittee (Erin & Steve) will handle the Executive Summary. Erin's staff can produce the document in-house & will have a draft to review by the January meeting.

Review of Membership – John will send out letters to all partners thanking them for their service and asking if they want to continue for 2015.

Reassessing Subcommittees – Jacob suggested reassessing subcommittees for better alignment.

Accountability & Oversight – It was determined there should be ongoing oversight and reporting with the Project Groups.

Role of Philanthropic Community – Whether philanthropic representation would be better served as subcommittee members rather than on the Steering Committee was debated, as the philanthropic community may not care to participate in the minutia of the monthly Steering Committee meetings, but rather mainly focus on the actual funding of projects. Rick will contact his brother for added advice. There is a philanthropic “group” that meets periodically and they could self-select their representation.

MEDC – Dave indicated MEDC wants to be more involved. Questions were asked regarding is that where we want to go and is there value added.

January Steering Committee Items

January meeting will be 29th 11:00 – 2:30 at MDOT Grand Region offices, 1420 Front Ave. NW.

Executive Summary – Erin will have draft ready by January meeting. Vet through Executive Committee

Grant Application Development – Dave will do and have draft available in January. Vet through Executive Committee.

Steering Committee Membership – John will send letters out.

Communications Plan – Rick to revisit and implement by end of 1st quarter including independent website.

January Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- Discuss Non-Profit Participation
- Review Membership
- Review Executive Summary & Grant Application

Other – John discussed the Governor’s Education and Economic Summit and he and Rick’s involvement in organizing a Region 4 session.

Adjourn – 1:45 p.m.