



West Michigan Prosperity Alliance Votes on Priority Projects

For the second time since the program began, over 120 community members from the 13 counties of West Michigan gathered and voted on the region's "Projects of Regional Economic Importance". The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance was organized under Governor Snyder's Regional Prosperity Alliance

In 2014, members of the region gathered and voted to recognize and help fund 5 projects. Again this year, through a democratic process and voting 5 projects were selected.

After an introduction by John Weiss, Chairman of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance and welcome from Tom Haas, President of Grand Valley State University, Senator Gary Peters took the stage. Senator Peters complemented West Michigan for its long history of collaboration and cooperation, our focus on public/private partnerships, leadership and economic vitality.



Next, a presentation was made on the new "West Michigan Regional Dashboard". This new dashboard is led and funded by the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance in partnership with many other organizations.

What is the West Michigan Regional Dashboard?

The Dashboard will track the region's progress on critical economic, environmental and social outcomes.

For the first time, key indicators will be available for everyone to view from a single source. The West Michigan region lacks a common set of measurements for our critical economic, environmental and social indicators. All 13 counties in our region will be available with not just regional data, but county by county data as well. This new coordinated measurement tool will empower business and the public sector to work together to begin strategic change and build collective action. The final version of the dramatic new tool will debut this winter. Much more

information will be released in the future.

2016 Projects of Regional Economic Importance

Representatives of the 5 nominated projects were given the opportunity to make a seven minute presentation followed by five minutes of questions. Upon completion of the presentations those in attendance were asked to rank each project.

The projects and their priority decided by those in attendance were:

1. Grand River Revitalization
2. Regional Force Sewer Main Connecting Coopersville and Muskegon
3. College Degree Credit Alignment
4. Hardy Pond Trail
5. West Michigan Water Systems

In future editions of the Weekly Update I will provide greater detail on each of these projects, their goals and objectives and how they will impact West Michigan.

