



March 29, 2013

2013 Governor's Economic Summit

Last week I participated in the 2013 Governor's Economic Summit. This state-wide event was the first of its kind and was organized by Governor Snyder and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The theme for the Summit was Collaborate, Create and Connect.

Representatives from business, government and the non-profit community gathered in Detroit to discuss the issues critical to the continued revitalization of Michigan's economy. The program involved a series of state and national speakers along with hands-on breakout sessions dealing with specific regions and industries that drive our economy.

During several of the sessions, leaders from our West Michigan Region gathered to talk specifically about the needs of our area. Those discussions were focused on key factors including education, future job needs, growing industries in our local economy, and government's role at the state and local level in the future of our State.

Quality of life issues and the ability to attract, develop, and keep talent in West Michigan were also a major part of the agenda. These sessions provided opportunities to

connect and work directly with business, state and local governments and others to analyze and identify specific needs and recommend solutions for the future of our region.

One of the goals of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is to promote opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among our members. GVMC and our Transportation, REGIS and LGROW efforts are outstanding and recognized examples of successful collaborations.

This 2013 Governor's Economic Summit stressed the importance of collaboration at not just the regional level, but also throughout Michigan. The opportunity to collaborate exists with not only our governments, but also our business, education and non-profit communities.

While we at GVMC are already deeply involved in many collaborations, the Summit stressed the importance of expanding our efforts to other areas in order to provide a brighter future for not only our West Michigan region, but all of Michigan as well.

In the future the Governor plans convene other Summit's that focus on other critical issues in our State. The next one planned will deal specifically with education.

10th Annual LGROW/ Grand River Forum

By

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Join LGROW on Thursday, April 25th, 2013 from 9am-11:30am for our annual Spring Forum. This forum will address current watershed issues. Join us for exciting updates on the Grand River Restoration Project, a discussion of water quality in the Grand River provided by Mike Lunn from the City of Grand Rapids and a discussion on changing water levels and climate change presented by GVSU's Director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, Alan Steinman, Ph.D. There will also be updates on local watersheds and the ability to network with other concerned citizens about watershed issues.

After the forum there will be a special event just for forum attendees, a tour of Founder's Brewing Company. Join us at 1pm for an hour and a half long tour of the brewing facility and a discussion of water quality issues and how it impacts our ability to be "Beer City USA".

If you wish to attend this event please RSVP to Katherine.Collen@gvmc.org and include whether or not you wish to attend the brewery tour as well. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to support our community watersheds.



**Reminder:
Our April
Board of Directors
Meeting has been
cancelled.**