I. CALL TO ORDER:
John Weiss called the October 10, 2014 meeting to order at 12:42 pm

Members Present: John Weiss, Executive Director, GVMC
Roger Safford, Regional Engineer, State of Michigan, DOT
Deborah Groeneveld, Executive Director, Michigan Works! Muskegon-Oceana
Bill Raymond, Executive Director, Ottawa County Michigan Works!
Jacob Maas, Executive Director, Kent-Allegan Michigan Works!
Dave Bee, Director, WMRPC
Erin Kuhn, Program Manager, WMSRDC
Simone Jonaitis, Executive Director, GVSU-Center for Adult/Continuing Students
Steve Bulthuis, MACC
Kathy Maclean, Ludington Chamber
Rich Chapla, The Right Place
Mike O’Connor, Zeeland Adult Education
Doug Wood, Orchard View Adult Education
Jim Fisher, PADNOS/Talent 2025
Kevin Stots, Talent 2025
Ed Garner, Muskegon Area First
Andy Johnston, West Michigan Chamber Coalition
Fiona Hert, Grand Rapids Community College
Valerie Byrnes, Barry County
Paul Griffith, Executive Director, Michigan Works! West Central
Kathleen Sullivan, Adult Learning Partners of WM

Members Excused: Jim Sandy, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, Linda Brand, Bruce Adair, and Lynda Matson

II. INTRODUCTIONS:
It was noted that there was great feedback and great presentations at the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance meeting, and that there was a great group of voters and attendees totaling 124. There was also a Mlive reporter at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Moved by Jacob Mass, seconded by Valerie Byrnes with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda for October 10, 2014.
IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
Moved by Jacob Mass seconded by Deborah Groeneveld with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014.

V. **DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GENERAL SESSION**
Valerie Byrnes commented that the session was enlightening. Jim Fisher congratulated Erin and staff on the process for the session. It was also pointed out that there are power point presentations on the website from the meeting.

VI. **PLAN/PROJECT FINALIZATION DISCUSSION – DAVE BEE, STEVE BULTHUIS, ERIN KUHN**
Dave Bee suggested plan presentations, and to add Talent 2025 and the Chamber Coalition to their partners. Steve Bulthuis questioned whether or not the group was prepared to comply with page six of the Regional Prosperity Plan, and Paul Griffith stated that he agreed with Steve. Jacob Mass said that small ones are good, and can be upscaled. Jim stated that there are scarce resources and all can’t be winners. Bill Raymond suggested that the groups should work with others for good regional projects and help later with the larger project.

Fiona Hert asked what the plan is for next year. John Weiss stated that the process for first tier to come to the group for their endorsement, support, money, recognition and political support. They will be selected to submit a grant for money. Kathleen Sullivan stated that the group should take the criteria and cross reference it to the plan. She added that they should let tier three projects come to the group with how they have met the criteria. Dave Bee said that a final plan to all submitters should be given so they can get together. Andy added that language should be put together for 2nd and 3rd tier projects.

Jim Fisher said that a strategy committee should get together to think about things that come up because the group is not going to put much energy in the 2nd and 3rd tier projects. Another committee should get together to think about things going forward. John Weiss said that we should think about adding foundations and non-profit partners.

Rich Chapla suggested that the group should look at how projects can be combined and the whole community should look at what could be done to further the collaboration. Valerie Byrnes added the group could be proactive leaders. John said that they need credit for the journey. The group has learn to work with 25 individuals in different areas. Next year he wants to handout high level executive summaries that can be given to
show what the group has done. Jim added that it should be one page so that the group can be ambassadors for this.

-Motion by Jim Fisher, seconded by Andy Johnston to approve the Regional Prosperity Plan for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Roger Safford suggested a smaller vision statement that the group could use for the market approach. Doug Wood added that revisions should be done yearly and quarterly. John added that this will be done, but the group is not entirely sure how often this will take place as of yet. It will be a living document. Jacob Maas added that in the SWAT Analysis the workforce definition needs some work. John added that he is excited about next year and the unanimous vote. The group will apply for the full $250,000 for the 2015 plan. He also stated that there will be a reintroduction of the PR project management work. John said that the group should support the six organizations that want their help, and that the group needs to find out what their needs and resources needed are. He said this may help them go to the private sector for help.

Valerie asked whether the regional planning groups get some amount of administrative money, and John replied that $25,000 was distributed. He also added that the group needs support letters from all of the group organizations. John stated that we may look at a two region rail project, a three region environmental project and a great lakes strategies project for the next grant process.

VII. COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS:
None

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS
None

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION OF COLLABORATION/COLLABORATION EFFORTS

Erin Kuhn stated that other regions want to work with region four to connect with us with the rail to get to the port. John stated that the Governor is excited about these types of cross region projects. Rick added that there needs to be a strategic session to know where we are going from here.

Bill asked if there has been any criteria given for additional members, and John responded that there hasn’t been. He also reported that of the $250,000 received for the grant, the group has $198,000 left over, and at least $150,000 will carry over. He also added that salary charges will change going forward, and that he likes the way this process has brought the region together.
X. ANY NEWS FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP

None

XI. NEXT MEETING

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Groeneveld