Agenda

West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting

GVMC Offices
678 Front Ave NW Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
August 20, 2018

1. Welcome
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes (attachment)
4. Call for Projects
5. Change in Leadership (attachment)
6. Other
7. Adjourn
West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

June 18, 2018

Steering Committee Meeting

2:00

WMSRDC Offices
Muskegon, MI

Present:

John Weiss - GVMC
Erin Kuhn - WMSRDC
Paul Griffith – Michigan Works West Central
Jim Sandy – Mecosta County Development Corporation
Elisa Hoekwater – MACC
Erick Kind - MDOT
Dave Bee – West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
Emily Staley - Lake Shore Advantage
Jim Fisher
Rick Chapla – The Right Place

1. **Public Comment** – None

2. **Approval of Minutes**

   **MOTION** – To Approve the Minutes. **MOVE** – Kuhn. **SUPPORT** – Sandy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **Broadband Update**

   Paul Griffith updated the group on broadband. The Governor has created a committee and two subgroups to address broadband coverage throughout Michigan. The group includes lots of big players. There has been lively discussion and 6 listening tours. $10-20 million is in the Michigan budget for broadband pilot projects. Three bills have been approved to create and/or amend asset management councils for communications, transportation and water.

   The federal farm bill (which included $600 million rural broadband funding 80/20 match) did not pass. If approved in the future, RPI funds could be used for local match in securing these federal funds. The bill is to be reconsidered by 7/4/18.
95% of the U.S. population has access to broadband. However, only 60% of rural populations only have access.

4. **Pilot Project Update**

The Asset Management Pilot project has been completed. A media event and public education luncheon took place in May.

On July 17 another public education luncheon will take place at Fifth Third Ballpark. Invitees include all 61 communities that participated in Region 4, subject matter experts, RPI Steering Committee, WMSRDC Board, and GVMC Board as well as the legislative bodies of its member communities.

Legislation has been put through to create / amend asset management boards MIC, WAMC and TAMC.

The July 17 meeting will take the place of the July RPI meeting.

5. **Dashboard Advisory Update**

Rick Chapla reviewed the new Dashboard format.

- 15,097 page visits since the site launched (Jan. 2017)
- Approximately 20% of user traffic come from referrals (sites like MLive, WoodTV8, Fox 17, Ludington.org, etc. linking to the dashboard from their own sites)
- France, Canada, and Brazil are the next top sources of traffic.

6. **Further Discussion from February Meeting**

a. **Budget** – John reviewed the budget. $170,435 is currently allocated for projects. With the $35,000 in allocation left over from the mini grants, the total for projects could go up to $205,000. Rick Chapla stated he didn’t think the Dashboard would need the $3,000 currently allocated for them.

b. **Project Proposal Review Committee**

   i. John explained that 5 people have expressed interest in participating in the call for projects process and project review committee: Rick Chapla, Bonnie Gettys, Crystal Young, Kevin Stotts and Jacob Maas. Gayle will forward Rick the past form used. Rick Chapla will serve as Chair and convene the group to decide on process & paperwork, and evaluate project submissions per the stated criteria. The final number
of projects presented to the public (depending on how they rank by criteria) should be 5-6.

c. Use of Dashboard for Project Evaluation - Discussion took place on use of Dashboard indicators for project evaluation. It was decided the project review committee will use the 5 predetermined criteria, as well as how the project would move one or more Dashboard indicators forward, to determine the scoring of projects.

d. Engaging Foundations – Discussion took place regarding engaging foundations both before and after project selection. The call for project info could be forwarded to foundations so that they could submit projects they are familiar with but maybe not currently funding themselves. Foundations could also be engaged by forwarding worthy projects which were not chosen through the RPI process, to them. Most foundation representatives have dropped out of the RPI Steering Committee. Those with connections (Bonnie, Rick, etc.) could help facilitate these project related connections.

7. Other

8. Adjourn – 3:00 p.m.
August 2, 2018

To: West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

From: John W. Weiss

Sub: Change in Leadership

Over 6 years ago we began the process of organizing the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. Since then, I have had the honor of serving as the chair and GVMC has been the fiduciary agent for the initiative.

During the past 6 years we have worked together to organize our Region 4 efforts. Those efforts have received recognition and we have provided leadership not only in our area, but as a state-wide model as well. We were the first to develop a public process to share our RPI funding and award projects. We organized public meetings that determined criteria, established a process and invested almost 1 million dollars in our 13 county area. Looking back from our first meeting at Fifth Third Ballpark, our process has involved hundreds of people from the area participating together in our efforts. Boundaries and barriers to collaboration have been erased and we have worked together successfully as a region while making new friends and opening other opportunities to cooperate. I always stressed that the "journey" of organizing, building trust and working together is the foundation of our success in West Michigan.

After countless meetings and presentations not only in our region, but in Lansing and other parts of the state, the time has come to change leadership and take the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance to the next level. Therefore, I announced to the GVMC Board this morning that effective October 1, 2018, Erin Kuhn and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission will assume the chair and fiduciary leadership of the WMPA.

I will continue to serve and support the WMPA in any way possible and I along with GVMC are committed to the continued success of our regional cooperation efforts.