

**I-69 Thumb Region - Regional Prosperity Initiative
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2016
10:30 a.m.**

Chairperson Lucas opened the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

I. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

II. 2015 Partnership Projects Status Update

a. Asset Mapping of Work-Based Education Programs

Anna Pinter stated that Upjohn requested and was given an extension to the end of February. She stated that the inventory is complete, whereas the data gathering, examining the average wages by industry, the type and location of workers, and the implementation strategies are still in progress.

b. Craft Ag Directory/Story Map progress

Anna Pinter showed the Craft Ag Directory Map. She stated that the map will be live within the next week and will be housed on the I-69 Thumb Region website as an additional tab. Ms. Pinter went through the categories; brewery/winery; farm; store; farmers' market; meat/poultry; orchard; specialty (honey farms, maple syrup farms, alpacas). She also demonstrated how you can click on a number and a short summary comes up. She showed how you can click on details and get the address, phone number, link to website if available, months, days and hours of operation. Discussion ensued.

c. Talent Tours

Anna Pinter stated that just over \$5,000 has been spent on talent tours so far. She stated that 1,700 students were transported to 45 different firms throughout the region. Ms. Pinter stated that there is almost \$30,000 still left and that staff is proposing to divide these remaining funds between the 7 counties and provide a new deadline of June 30, 2016. She stated that would give each county another \$4,200/\$4,300 dollars. Ms. Pinter stated that we can re-send the flier with the new deadline and remind people the funding is available.

III. Connect MI

Damon Fortney stated that Genesee County completed the program and became a certified connected community. He stated that means they have good broadband infrastructure and are taking the right steps to promote broadband usage across the county. Mr. Fortney stated that Lapeer County should begin the certification process in April, with additional counties to follow.

Dan Manning of Connect Michigan stated that Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce was the lead agency for Genesee County's plan which was completed end of last year. He stated he will work with as many counties as he can. Mr. Manning stated that he is working with Tuscola County right now and then he will get with Lapeer County. Discussion ensued.

IV. 2016 Regional Prosperity Initiative Funding

a. Award

Derek Bradshaw stated that we received our 2016 RPI funding. He stated that we requested \$250,000 and received \$235,000. Mr. Bradshaw stated that no one received the full amount requested. He stated that we have to send a revised budget to the State before signing the grant agreement.

b. Budget Changes

Derek Bradshaw reviewed the budget.

Motion: Action: Approved, **moved by** Carl Osentoski, **supported by** Robert McLaren, to approve the budget as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Cool and Connected Grant Application

Carl Osentoski stated that he was contacted by Andrew Northrup, MSU extension regarding a grant application for technical assistance for broadband placemaking activities. He stated that a letter of interest needs to be submitted by the deadline of February 24, 2016. The EPA suggested that a community apply as they are not looking to fund regions. Mr. Osentoski stated that they are focusing on a small downtown area where there is broadband already. He stated that he contacted Sebewaing and suggested the community could be a platform for the rest of the region. Discussion ensued.

VI. Defense Industry Career Transition Center

Kimberly Prusak stated that the purpose of the Defense Industry Career Transition Center is to assist those whose employment has been affected by changes in any defense related business/industry. She stated that the goal is to work with businesses and workers in the defense industry to help workers affected by any changes in the industry and help them find new employment. Discussion ensued.

VII. Next Meeting

Derek Bradshaw stated that as you all know Anna is pregnant and will soon be off spending time with her new baby. He stated that while Anna is off Damon Fortney will be filling in for her.

Anna Pinter stated that the next meeting will be held here in Lapeer at the Health Department on April 14, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

Stephen Erickson stated that he purchased an incubator office. He stated that he has nine businesses in the office and they have three years to grow and then move out on their own. Mr. Erickson stated that he has a financial person on hand at the office to help the businesses with their financial plan. Discussion ensued.

Chairperson Lucas adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Compton, Secretary
GLS Region V