

SUMMARY OF I-69 THUMB REGION – REGIONAL PROSPERITY MEETING

The I-69 Thumb Region Regional Prosperity Steering Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at the Lapeer County Health Department.

PRESENT: Chairperson Patricia Lucas, Alyssa Tracey, Bonnie DiNardo, Brent Jones, Carl Osentoski, Dan Casey, Eric Andreychuk, Jane Fitzpatrick, John Hoffmann, Kimberly Prusak, Linda Burchell, Mary Ann Ketels, Rachel Verschaeve, Robert McLaren, Sarah Sebaly, Sidney Grinnell, Trevor Leatzow, Anna Pinter and Debby Compton.

Chairperson Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

I. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Partnership Projects Status Update

a. Regional Trainings

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that Recast City is scheduled to present on February 8, 2017 and February 9, 2017 to local officials/leaders. The 8th will consist of a half-day session for economic developers on what the challenges and opportunities are for small scale manufacturing. There will be a full day session on the 9th spent in a specific community going over their challenges and opportunities.

A one (1) page summary with instructions on how to submit an interest form will be ready for distribution by late October.

b. Talent Tours

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that there was \$10,000 available prior to Manufacturing Day. It has been requested and the events happened last week. The Talent Tours project has been successful. Staff is working on putting together the final numbers; how many students participated and what businesses were visited. Once this information has been compiled staff will share it with the committee.

c. Catapult Your Craft Food & Beverage Business Competition

Mr. Dan Casey stated that the county-wide level competition will start with the first competition on November 2nd in Genesee County and the last competition in Sanilac County on November 14th. The regional competition is tentatively set for January 24, 2017. At this time, twenty-seven (27) companies have started the application process. The deadline to register is October 17th.

III. First Impressions Program Recommendation

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that the First Impressions Program will be done in cooperation with MSU Extension. First Impressions involves bringing in a group of people to a community for the first time and performing an assessment about their first impressions. The assessment includes the community's digital presence as well as a physical site visit. The I-69 Thumb Region will fund up to four (4) assessments of communities in the Region. The process includes presenting the results, both positive and negative to a community leadership team that will be responsible for utilizing the findings to improve the community. An application will be sent out by the end of October and interested communities are encouraged to apply. Some of the requirements to apply include a population of less than 10,000, an organized leadership team and rural in nature according to the USDA. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to receive funding to implement some of the suggestions the First Impressions Program presents.

Motion: Action: Approve, **moved by** Carl Osentoski, **supported by** Robert McLaren, to approve a portion of the Growing Downtowns partnership project funding be allocated as implementation dollars.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. Education Action Team Recommendation

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that the Education Action Team met in late September. One of the projects discussed was MI Bright Future. At this time staff would like to table taking any action on this project while we gather more information. Ms. Pinter introduced Trevor Leatzow and Sarah Sebaly from Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) and asked them to talk about MI Bright Future. Career Cruising is an online tool that all schools are using and MI Bright Future is a software that builds on top of Career Cruising. Using a web-based software, students are able to explore various industries by connecting with local companies offering work-based learning opportunities like job shadowing, internships and company tours. It connects students and teachers to local companies who have real life work opportunities available. Discussion ensued.

V. Tourism Subcommittee Status Update

Tourism subcommittee met September 29th. Had good discussion with lots of project ideas. To name a few; pizza tours, International Student tours, tourism directory like the agricultural directory. Next meeting is November 2nd at the Lapeer Health Department at 10:30 a.m. Expect to determine how to use the funds and get approval at November Steering Committee meeting. If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to be a part of the group or just receive the communications, let us know. If you have any project ideas, let us know.

VI. 2017 Regional Prosperity Initiative Funding

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that the 2017 budget for RPI statewide is down slightly. Funding anticipated between \$200,000 and \$250,000, which is in line with past years. The application is out now and due to the State December 1st. You will see requests for letters of support soon. If you have any project ideas, please let us know. One possible project is doing an update on the Accelerate Plan. We would want to determine if there are new/additional projects that should be included in the Plan. There may be an additional meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 10th.

VII. Next Meetings

- a. Tourism Subcommittee – November 2, 2016 at 10:30am, Lapeer County Health Department**
- b. Steering Committee – December 8, 2016 at 10:30am, Lapeer County Health Department**

Chairperson Lucas adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Compton, Secretary
GLS Region V