

**I-69 Thumb Region - Regional Prosperity Initiative
Steering Committee Meeting
Lapeer County Health Department
1800 Imlay City Road, Lapeer, Michigan 48446
Thursday, April 14, 2016
10:30 a.m.**

Chairperson Lucas opened the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

- I. Introductions
Everyone introduced themselves.

- II. Partnership Projects Status Update
 - a. Olsson – Square Footage Study
Damon Fortney stated that in March Olsson Associates held a conference call with the committee to discuss sites, buildings and the lack of square footage in the region. He stated that the final report is due in May.

 - b. Craft Ag Directory/Story Map
Damon Fortney showed a screen shot of the story map. He talked about the businesses and what the map shows about the businesses on there. He stated that staff is continuing to verify information on the businesses that were provided and the map will be updated again in a couple of months. Mr. Fortney also stated that the Genesee & Flint Chamber of Commerce is working on a printed version of the map that will be distributed soon. Discussion ensued.

 - c. Talent Tours
Damon Fortney stated that there is still money to spend on Talent Tours. He stated that the deadline has been extended to June 30, 2016. Mr. Fortney stated that staff has been receiving more requests since the deadline was extended. Discussion ensued.

- III. Regional Transit Mobility – Phase II Report Update
Damon Fortney stated that in late March, KFH Group provided stakeholders in Region 6 with the Phase II Regional Transit draft report which outlines the gaps and needs in transportation across the region and strategies to address them. He stated that staff from both GLS Region V and the Flint MTA completed a review of the document and submitted comments in April to the KFH Group. He stated that a final draft is expected by May 2016. Mr. Fortney stated that on April 18th staff will participate in a statewide conference call to discuss Phase III of the project.

IV. Asset Mapping of Work-Based Education Programs – Upjohn Presentation
Lee Adams from Upjohn presented a PowerPoint to the committee.

Derek Bradshaw stated that a report is due this week. Staff will get it out to the committee when completed.

V. Next Meeting – June 9th 10:30 a.m.

Damon Fortney stated that the next meeting will be on June 9, 2016. He stated that it would be here at the Lapeer County Health Department, but it would not be in the same room that we normally use. He stated that staff would let the committee know which room the meeting is going to be held in as the date gets closer.

Derek Bradshaw stated that the Education Action Team set aside \$20,000 in 2016 RPI funding to do an education project. He stated that the Education Action Team will meet to brainstorm ideas.

Derek Bradshaw stated that there is a new pilot project called 10 cents a meal for School Kids & Farms and the I-69 Thumb Region has been selected as one of three prosperity regions in the state to be included in the pilot program. Mr. Bradshaw stated that this project will touch about 86,000 students and will provide schools with a match up to 10 cents per meal to purchase Michigan fruits and vegetables. He asked if there would be an interest in supporting the 10 cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms project.

Motion: Action: approve, **moved by** Carl Osentoski, **supported by** Janice Karcher, to support the 10 Cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms Pilot Project and the inclusion of Prosperity Region 6 as a pilot region.

Motion passed unanimously.

Derek Bradshaw stated that the senate dropped the Regional Prosperity Initiative funding from their budget for next year. He stated that further information would be out in the next couple of weeks. Discussion ensued regarding support of the program and sending a Letter of Support.

Motion: Action: approve, **moved by** Janice Karcher, **supported by** Carl Osentoski, to approve the support of the Regional Prosperity Initiative Program for the FY 2017 and sending a Letter of Support.

Motion passed unanimously.

Janice Karcher stated that the Genesee Area Focus Fund (GAFF) is seeking funding from the Economic Development Administration to develop a feasibility study for an Accelerator facility at one of the City of Flint's Brownfields – the former Buick City site. She stated that the partnership between the City of Flint and the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce reinforces the thought that together we can accomplish more than we could individually to encourage economic development in Flint.

Chairperson Lucas stated that the I-69 Thumb Region should support this and other initiatives that work to promote our region.

Motion: Action: approve, **moved by** Robert McLaren, **supported by** Thomas Crampton, to approve the support for the Genesee Area Focus Fund (GAFF) as they seek funding to develop a feasibility study.

Motion passed unanimously.

Derek Bradshaw announced that Anna Pinter had her baby. He stated that she had a baby boy and they named him Patrick.

Chairperson Lucas adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.