

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, November 10, 2016, at the Lapeer County Health Department.

PRESENT: Chairperson Patricia Lucas, Andy Northrop, Bonnie DiNardo, Brent Jones, Carl Osentoski, Craig Coney, Derek Bradshaw, Dyle Henning, Eric Andreychuk, Gene Pierce, Geoffrey Donaldson, Jim Mcloskey, John Hoffman, John Horvath, Kimberly Prusak, Linda Burchell, Mary Ann Ketels, Nancy Boxey, Rachel Verschaeve, Robert McLaren, Sidney Grinnell.

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Pinter, Jacob Maurer, Debby Compton.

Chairperson Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

I. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Partnership Projects Status Update

a. Regional Trainings

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that e-mails have gone out regarding the upcoming Funding and Training opportunities. December 7th, Incremental Development is having a lecture on how regular people are starting to rebuild neighborhoods in small increments across the country. February 7th, Recast City is doing a training on how to expand job opportunities in small-scale manufacturing and integrate these businesses into downtown/neighborhood reinvestment. First Impressions applications are due by December 2nd to Andy Northrop.

b. Catapult Your Craft Food & Beverage Business Competition

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that she has been to some of the competitions and they have been interesting. Mr. Dan Casey stated that everyone presents on all different levels of experience. Some of the businesses set up display tables.

III. Education Action Team Update

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that at the last meeting MI Bright Future was discussed and it is something that will be talked about again. Mr. Dan Casey stated that it will only be effective if school districts are using Career Cruising effectively. Instead of MI Bright Future maybe instead have schools submit projects for funding.

IV. Tourism Subcommittee Status Update

Mr. Andy Northrop stated that the Tourism Subcommittee met twice and have identified three areas of focus. The top priority for the Subcommittee is eco-tourism. A few members of the Tourism Subcommittee volunteered to help move eco-tourism related projects forward. The other priorities were identifying ways to

Please note these meetings are open to the public.

improve local municipalities' digital presence, from the municipality's website, to social media and trip advisor and marketing. Andy will work with GLS Region V staff to organize follow-up phone calls and/or meetings to determine further project details.

V. 2017 Regional Prosperity Initiative Funding

a. Budget

Mr. Derek Bradshaw went over the budget being proposed for the 2017 RPI grant application. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Action: Approved, **moved by** Carl Osentoski, **supported by** Bob McLaren, to approve the budget to be submitted as part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative 2017 funding application to the State.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Application

Mr. Derek Bradshaw stated that the application is due to the State on December 1st.

c. Letters of Support

Mr. Derek Bradshaw stated the letters of support are due by November 29th in order to be included with our application packet.

VI. Regional Transit Mobility Phase III

Mr. Jacob Maurer stated that staff completed a draft of the GLS Region V Regional Transit Mobility Phase III report. The report summarizes the information collected from August meetings with MTA, SATA and GLTA representatives. Staff will be meeting with both SEMCOG and EMCOG in the coming weeks to discuss data collected for the entire I-69 Thumb Region. Once finalized the report will be submitted to MDOT and the GLS Region V Planning and Development Commission.

VII. 2017 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that there was discussion at the last meeting about changing the day the committee gets together in hopes that more people would be able to attend the meetings. The meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of every other month. The first meeting will be Wednesday, February 8th at the Lapeer County Health Department. It has also been finalized that all meeting dates for the FY 2017 will be held at the Lapeer County Health Department at 10:30 a.m.

VIII. Next Meeting

a. Thursday, December 8, 2016

The December 8, 2016 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

Mr. Craig Coney commended the MTA for going out of the way to help people get to work. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Geoffrey Donaldson stated that he attended the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) Conference. MEDC discussed the rollout in October 2017 of the Redevelopment Ready Program for communities. Communities have to be engaged. They will have to meet minimum requirements to be eligible for funding. The first training seminar is in December and all communities have to attend or they will not be able to apply for funding. Regardless of size, every community has to be on board and has to do the training. Discussion ensued.

The board will put together a draft letter to go to MEDC with the following points.

- Cost & Timing
- Different levels to qualify
- Provide trainings in this area
- Modifications for smaller communities-based on population

Motion: Action: Approved, **moved by** Dyle Henning, **supported by** Geoffrey Donaldson, to approve the board writing a letter to go to MEDC stating concerns regarding the Readiness Program.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nancy Boxey stated the Value Projects deadline is November 17th.

Chairperson Lucas thanked GLS Region V staff for all the work they put in to keep these committee meetings going.

Chairperson Lucas adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Compton, Secretary
GLS Region V