

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, August 11, 2016, at the Lapeer County Health Department.

PRESENT: Chairperson Patricia Lucas, Andrew Northrup, Carl Osentoski, Eric Andreychuk, George Lauinger, Greg Capote, Justin Horvath, Linda Burchell, Mary Ann Ketels, Nancy Boxey, Robert McLaren, Robert Peters, Shawn Petri, Stephen Erickson, Derek Bradshaw, Anna Pinter and Debby Compton.

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

I. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Partnership Projects Status Update

a. Craft Ag Directory / Story Map

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that the directory is done. She showed the committee a screen shot of what it looks like and talked about the changes. She stated that there was an “all” tab and a “contact us” tab added. Ms. Pinter stated that the printed version is still in the works.

Ms. Pinter stated that there will also be videos added to the website. She stated that short promotional videos on some of the businesses in each county are being done.

Mr. Carl Osentoski stated that Sanilac County is done. Discussion ensued.

b. Talent Tours

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that the deadline on the Talent Tours was the end of June. She stated that we had over 1700 students and 52 businesses participate in the tours. Ms. Pinter stated that there is still interest in having funds available for this year's Manufacturing Day so it was suggested that \$10,000 remain in the project with a deadline of December 30, 2016. A couple of short videos were shown.

c. Regional Trainings

Ms. Anna Pinter talked about Recast City. She stated the training would be a day and a half and will focus on regional needs – expand job opportunities in small scale manufacturing and integrate these businesses in downtown / neighborhood reinvestment region-wide. Ms. Pinter stated that the half day training would be for economic developers and other leaders. She

stated the full day mini analysis will be done in a community to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities for small scale manufacturing in that specific community and an overview of short term action to move forward.

III. Budget Update

a. Discussion

Mr. Derek Bradshaw reviewed the budget. Discussion ensued.

b. Approval

Motion: Action: moved by Sidney Grinnell, supported by Robert McLaren, to approve the budget as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Transit Needs Study – I-69 Thumb Region

Ms. Mary Ann Ketels reviewed the MTA I-69 Corridor Study handout with the committee. She stated that the purpose of the study is to conduct a thorough review of the current needs, challenges, and opportunities that exist in the counties that make up Region 6 Regional Prosperity. Ms. Ketels suggested an afternoon meeting with the consulting group in October directly following the I-69 Thumb Region meeting. Discussion ensued.

V. Tourism Subcommittee Discussion

Mr. Andrew Northrup reviewed the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities handout with the committee. He talked about putting a "Tourism" subcommittee together.

Mr. Carl Osentoski talked about projects such as, First Impression and Recast City. Looking at a community from someone else's perspective. Discussion on young professionals; taking them into communities and getting their perspective on how the community looks. There was discussion on what works in one community and taking it back to another community.

VI. Catapult Your Craft Food & Beverage Business Competition

Ms. Anna Pinter reviewed the Business Plan Competition Sponsorship project with the committee. She stated that it would be for small businesses and or startup businesses. Ms. Pinter stated that it would consist of a short PowerPoint presentation of their Business Plan and Executive Summary. She stated that a small panel will judge the competition. Ms. Pinter stated that each County would have a County-wide competition and then winners would go on to region wide. She stated that the County-wide second place winner would receive

\$1,000, and the first place winner would receive \$2,000. Ms. Pinter stated that for Region wide the third place winner would receive \$1,000, second place would receive \$3,000, and the first place winner would receive \$5,000. Ms. Pinter stated that the competition will begin county-wide in October and finish with a regional winner at the end of the year.

VII. Next Meetings

Ms. Anna Pinter stated that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

Chairperson Lucas adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Compton, Secretary
GLS Region V