

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

September 4, 2014 Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions of Committee members and guests were made.

Grant Application for Year 2

John Egelhaaf stated that the application process and timeline for Year 2 are expected to be the same as last year for Year 1. He noted that this would translate into an application deadline of October 1, 2014.

The Committee requested that a review of the elements associated with each of the three (3) RPI Tiers be provided. In response to questions, John Egelhaaf noted that it was his understanding that only grant applications for moving a region forward to the next Tier will be considered.

General discussion ensued regarding a preliminary meeting schedule and optional agenda items for the time period between the conclusion of the Tier 1 Grant and Year 2 efforts. It was agreed that important tasks to pursue during this time would involve the dissemination of the Prosperity Plan to stakeholders for region-wide support and the identification of regional projects.

Conclude Prioritization of Regional Collaboration Opportunities

The Regional Collaboration Opportunities Matrix . . . revised per the Committee's review comments and prioritization efforts at the August 18, 2014 meeting . . . was presented. A further revision of the Matrix was also presented wherein the priority rankings and sector references had been removed and the goal statements and opportunity statements had been developed for Committee review. It was noted that review of the goals and opportunities is scheduled to be concluded today.

A lengthy review and revision of the draft goal and opportunity statements ensued. Upon completion of the review, it was agreed that the opportunities would not be prioritized at this time . . . but instead would be listed in alphabetical order in the Plan. The Committee noted that the completed goals and opportunities will provide valuable direction to communities within the Region for the alignment of local efforts with region-wide strategies and will provide a strong foundation for the selection of regional projects.

The timeline for the remainder of the project was presented and reviewed.

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

September 4, 2014 Meeting Notes

Alignment of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) - *Lee Adams and John Egelhaaf*

To allow for sufficient time for the presentation of the Prosperity Plan, discussion of the alignment between the Prosperity Plan and the CEDS was postponed to the September 22, 2104 Committee meeting.

Review Draft Prosperity Plan – *Rebecca Harvey*

Rebecca Harvey presented the Draft Prosperity Plan for Committee review and discussion. She highlighted the elements of the proposed Plan, providing background information on the data provided and the proposed format.

Detailed feedback was provided on all elements of the Plan. It was noted that the revisions would be made and the revised Plan submitted for Committee review and adoption at the September 22, 2014 meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2014, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Preliminary Agenda for next meeting:

- *Present Final Draft of Regional Prosperity Plan*
- *Present Region 8 – Regional Prosperity Website*
- *Present Region 8 – Regional Prosperity Dashboard*
- *Alignment of CEDS with Regional Prosperity Plan*
- *Next Steps*

Adjournment