

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

September 22, 2014 Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions of Committee members and guests were made. Sara Wyckoff and Chris Harbor from the Governor's Office were welcomed.

Review Year 1 Deliverables

Final Draft of the Prosperity Plan – *Rebecca Harvey*

Rebecca Harvey presented the revised draft of the Prosperity Plan for Committee final review and adoption. She highlighted the proposed revisions and the finalized elements of the draft Plan.

Extensive Committee discussion ensued wherein detailed feedback was provided on all elements of the revised draft Plan. The Committee then unanimously adopted the proposed Southwest Michigan Prosperity Region – 5-Year Prosperity Plan, with the additional revisions set forth in the Committee discussion. It was noted that the required revisions would be made and the adopted Plan submitted for distribution.

Sara Wyckoff addressed the Committee. She expressed her support for the collaborative effort demonstrated in the Committee's discussion today. She stated that it was helpful to see the process and that she understood the challenges present.

Ms. Wyckoff explained that every Region is at a different stage in the process, noting that Region 8 has proceeded well through Year 1 of the grant. She added that the Governor is committed to the RPI and has proposed continued funding of the program.

Chris Harbor noted that several Regions received second-round grants and so are not as advanced in the process. He also noted that some of the Regions will be requesting extensions of their Year 1 grants. The 3 Tiers of the RPI were reviewed, wherein it was explained that not all Regions were anticipated to choose to operate at a Tier 3 level. Mr. Harbor stated that collaboration takes time and that operating at a Tier 1 level for a second year is anticipated for many Regions.

It was noted that the Year 2 grant applications will be available on October 1, 2014 with an application deadline of November 1, 2014.

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RPI Dashboard – *John Egelhaaf*

John Egelhaaf presented a power point demonstration of the dashboard created for the Region by StatsAmerica. He stated that StatsAmerica has received a federal grant and has been engaging in the development of economic dashboards.

Mr. Egelhaaf explained that the dashboard does not allow for data comparisons between regions but does provide access to other regions. He noted that it provides a good structure for the growth of the Region's dashboard.

RPI Website – *John Egelhaaf*

John Egelhaaf stated that the website is still currently under construction and not available for demonstration. He noted that the website will be used to house the dashboard and will serve to meet the grant requirements.

Budget Update – *John Egelhaaf*

The 'RPI – Recap of Expenses for Period 1/1/14 – 9/22/14' was distributed for Committee discussion. It was noted that expenses through September 22, 2014 total approximately \$74,000, leaving a \$176,000 grant balance to be spent.

Committee discussion ensued wherein it was noted that the balance could be used to bridge into Year 2 to support activities such as an asset inventory and any additional sub-contract work that is deemed necessary.

Sara Wyckoff noted that it had not yet been determined if grant balances would be required to be remitted back to the State. It was noted that the matter would be an appropriate discussion topic for the meetings tentatively scheduled for October.

Next Steps

It was determined that two meetings would be scheduled to be held in October to discuss the following topics:

- : potential for collaboration with Southwest Michigan First in their outreach strategy this Fall;
- : a communication and distribution strategy for the 5-Year Prosperity Plan;

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: presentation to the Committee from the education sector to allow for better understanding of collaboration opportunities.

Adjournment