

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Dennis Berkebile, Jill Bland, Pat Carr, Corey Carolla (*delegate of Todd Gustafson*), Barbara Craig, Ben Damerow, Michael Evans, Jan Frantz, Luann Harden, Jason Latham, Juanita Miller, Ron Reid, Richard Remus, Jon Start

Committee Members Absent: Lynn Johnson, Jan Karazan,

Staff Present: Lee Adams, Peter Dams, John Egelhaaf, Rebecca Harvey

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions of Committee members and guests were made.

The agenda was presented and accepted.

Election of Secretary

It was noted that with the recent resignation of Vicki Pratt, the election of a new Secretary of the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee was in order.

Discussion ensued regarding potential delegates for the position. Motion by Ben Damerow, supported by Corey Carolla to elect Barbara Craig – Lake Michigan College to the position of Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

New Members

John Egelhaaf noted that the recently adopted bylaws call for the addition of 11 sectors to the Committee. The Committee proceeded with the identification of potential representatives from each new sector. It was agreed that a roster of the noted representatives would be prepared and distributed to Committee members for review and addition. Upon development of a final roster, same will be provided to Committee members for selection through voting. It was noted that the representatives receiving the most votes within each sector will be recognized as the new Committee member from that sector.

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Structure/Process

John Egelhaaf provided an overview of the Subcommittee structure/process adopted by the Committee to be used in the review of Plan goals and related regional assets and the identification of projects. The following structure/process was outlined:

Subcommittee: (Each Subcommittee is responsible for one of the four RPI goals)

- Membership: Committee members; participation from allied professions of the goal theme
- Tasks:
 - 1) Review/revise Plan goal/opportunities of the goal theme.
 - 2) Review/comment on the asset inventory developed for the goal theme.
 - 3) Develop a list of projects to implement the goal/opportunities.
 - 4) Prioritize the developed list of projects.
 - 5) Submit recommendations (revised goal/opportunities and prioritized list of projects) to the RPI Committee.

RPI Committee:

- In consideration of the recommendations from the Subcommittee:
 - 1) Approve proposed amendments to the goal/opportunities.
 - 2) Approve a final list of prioritized projects.

Subcommittee:

- Review the draft Request for Proposals (RFPs) developed by staff for top priority projects.

Committee members reiterated their understanding and support of the process. The importance of proceeding in a timely and informed manner toward the selection of projects was noted.

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Updated Education Goal

John Egelhaaf and Mike Evans presented the completed work of the Education Subcommittee. They explained that the Subcommittee worked to further develop the goal/opportunities set forth in the Plan, noting the following:

- The goal/opportunities provide the essential framework for the selection of projects of regional significance;
- The goal was broadened with action words;
- Opportunities were expanded;
- Objectives were added to set forth specific projects and strategies.

It was agreed that the proposed goal should be revised to refer to the ‘regional and local economy’ instead of just the ‘local economy’.

Motion by Jan Frantz, supported by Luann Harden to adopt the proposed Education goal/opportunities/objectives, as revised. Motion carried unanimously.

Jill Bland noted the importance of communication with the State (Department of Education) to keep informed about State projects/grants that are tied to the objectives/projects of the RPI. Corey Carolla added that communication with subcommittee participants is also crucial to staying informed about project funding opportunities and should be a foundation of the RPI’s work.

Following Committee discussion, it was noted that John Egelhaaf and Lee Adams will work to develop a communication conduit between State departments and the RPI and to build same into the RPI ‘system’.

Education Priority Projects

John Egelhaaf and Mike Evans presented the list of projects developed by the Education Subcommittee. Per the adopted process, the Subcommittee prioritized the identified projects and provided the top seven projects for Committee consideration.

In review of the proposed projects, the Committee determined that there would be merit in being able to consider the recommendations of the Subcommittee prior to ranking the projects at the Committee meeting. To that end, it was agreed that the project recommendations would be provided to Committee members electronically following this meeting to allow adequate time for

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

June 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

consideration. Committee members will then respond to staff with individual project rankings to allow for a determination of the top three projects.

Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2015 and will serve as the partner meeting for the 'Infrastructure' goal.

Lee Adams noted that he will be contacting Committee members to serve as champions for the upcoming 'infrastructure' partner survey.

Adjournment