

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Vince Carahaly, Michael Evans, Joanna Johnson (phone), Bridgette Jones (phone), Ken Jones (phone), Pat Karr (phone), Jason Latham, Deb Miller (phone), Dan Peat, Richard Remus, Tom Richardson, Barbara Rose, Jon Start (phone), Rachel Wade

Committee Members Absent: Kim Bell, Jill Bland, Barbara Craig, Ben Damerow, Grant Fletcher, Luann Harden, Kenneth High, Lynn Johnson, Jan Karazim, Shane Kissack, Bob Miller, David Reid, Sandy Standish

Also Present: John Egelhaaf, Lee Adams, Rebecca Harvey

Call to Order

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Introduction of Members

Introductions of Committee members and guests were made.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Rose, **supported** by Remus, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion **carried unanimously**.

Approval of Minutes – *September 7, 2017*

Motion by Remus, **supported** by Johnson, to approve the September 7, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion **carried unanimously**.

Citizen Comments

No citizen comments were offered.

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Monthly Financial Report

Egelhaaf referenced and provided an overview of the 2017 Financial Report for the RPI – Region 8. The following was noted: SWMPC Indirect and BCATS staffing expenses are over-budget; SWMPC and SMPC expenses are currently under-budget; Total Expenses to date represent approximately one-third of the 2017 Total Budget. Egelhaaf stated that the RPI remains comfortably situated to continue with the project awards budgeted at \$117,000. Karr noted that BCATS expenses include last year’s charges that were billed in January.

2017 RFP Process

Chair Evans stated that at the September 7, 2017 meeting the RPI Committee voted to approve the proposed RFP and noted support for the project selection process and Project Selection Criteria that had been detailed/presented.

Egelhaaf reviewed the three categories identified for project proposals – 1) Connecting Education, Business, and Community Development to Enhance Talent; 2) Tapping the Resources of Education to Solve Regional Challenges; and 3) Career Pathways and gave an overview of the rubric used by the Subcommittee to score the project proposals.

Egelhaaf then presented a synopsis of each of the four project proposals received, noting the following:

1 – **Kinexus** - *seeking funds for its Jobs for Michigan’s Graduates (JMG) programming, operating across Region 8 in partnership with Michigan Works! Southwest/The W. E. UpJohn Institute and KRESA.*

- Continue and expand operations at 11 existing sites across Region 8
- \$100,000 request - - with \$704,246 from other sources
- Connected to RPI themes – strong collaboration; bridging service gaps; supports/sustains Career Pathways

Committee questions and points of discussion included the following:

- how will the money be spent
- a review of the proposed budget - - noting that it is directed primarily to the expansion of staff
- what will happen after this year - - historically school will then budget support

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

2 - Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative – Phase II – *adult literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Adult Basic Education (ABE) providers in collaboration with workforce development providers will more effectively deliver services in a career pathway context.*

- 2015 RPI funds used in Phase I
- Expand number of learners and add 2 counties
- \$66,695 request - - with \$64,000 from other sources
- Connected to RPI themes – supports/sustains Career Pathways

Committee questions and points of discussion included the following:

- what other sources of funding have been identified - - other funds noted have been secured
- a review of the proposed budget - - most labor done by volunteers; money will be used to purchase supplies and technology
- funds will bring existing facilities into compliance and expand into areas lacking facilities

3 – Southwest Michigan First – *Talent Anchor Strategy - establish Southwest Michigan First presence on WMU campus*

- Designed to keep college graduates in the Region
- \$63,000 request - - with \$276,200 from other sources
- Connected to RPI themes – supports/sustains Connecting to Enhance Talent

Committee questions and points of discussion included the following:

- what is WMU currently doing to retain graduates (ie. placement efforts) - - how will WMU feel about partnering in this effort
- WMU has an active placement center - - there is a high risk for redundancy
- the proposal does not detail how the strategy would work with existing practices

4 – Urban Alliance – *Momentum Urban Employment Initiative (Momentum) and the Urban Alliance Technical Center (UATC)*

- Focus is to move people from poverty to self-sufficiency
- Expand to an additional county
- \$110,000 request - - with \$1 million from other sources
- Connected to RPI themes – supports/sustains Connecting to Enhance Talent and Tapping the Resources of Education

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Egelhaaf reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the four proposals and scored each proposal using the approved Project Selection Criteria rubric. The project scores were as follows:

Project Proposal 1 (\$100,000)	77.8 points
Project Proposal 2 (\$66,695)	70.9 points
Project Proposal 3 (\$63,000)	76.8 points
Project Proposal 4 (\$110,000)	72.4 points

He stated that the scores represent the recommendation of the Subcommittee, and that the Committee can use the scores as one element of consideration in their deliberation. Egelhaaf confirmed that a vote of the Committee is required today to facilitate the project award schedule.

FY 2017 Project Selection Voting

Following the presentation of the project proposals and recommendations of the Subcommittee, lengthy Committee discussion ensued regarding the elements of the project proposals and the scoring rubric used to assess the proposals. The following was noted:

- Why was the scoring for ‘Geographic Scope’ so wide ranging between project proposals; it appears as if it was applied differently by each Subcommittee member.
- The ‘Geographic Scope’ element may be weighted too heavily.
- Perhaps the score should only be a starting point in the selection process and not the determining factor.
- The scoring approach may have assumed a longer, more comprehensive review process.
- Should the grant be a single award . . . or can it be split between projects?
- The Committee’s discussion of the project proposals has not been robust; some Committee members are not ready to allocate funds.
- Should the *Talent Anchor Strategy* (#3) be considered given concerns expressed regarding redundancy and the role of WMU.
- The scores for project proposals #1, #2, and #4 are close . . . why not disregard the scores and consider contributions to all three projects.
- Does spreading the funds across three projects dilute the impact of RPI?

Rose suggested the Committee consider contributing the entire grant award of \$116,450 to Entergy to train/educate those losing employment from the closure of Palisades. Egelhaaf commented that the DTMB would likely support a project/award of this nature but that the employee-shed is not Region-wide and is located partially out of the Region. It was agreed that it would be difficult to act quickly enough to address such a project at this point in time.

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Wade noted that the Committee's discussion suggests a lack of support for Project Proposals #3 and #4. She proposed that the Committee consider awarding the requested \$66,695 to Project Proposal #2 and allocate the remainder of the funds to Project Proposal #1.

Latham stated that, notwithstanding the comments made earlier, Project Proposal #3 does the best job of meeting our definition of promoting prosperity: it is good for everyone and attracts business that relies on the retention of our college graduates (ie. the talent work force). He noted that if SWMI First identified this as an initiative, maybe WMU is not doing enough in this area.

Motion by Carahaly, **supported** by Johnson, to award the 2017 Project Grant as follows:

Project Proposal #1 – Kinexus	\$30,000
Project Proposal #2 - Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative	\$45,000
Project Proposal #4 – Urban Alliance	\$30,000

Retain the remaining \$11,000 to use at the Committee's discretion in support of the elements outlined in the RFP.

The motion **carried 13 to 1, with Rose dissenting.**

Dashboard/Website Subcommittee

Egelhaaf noted that on September 7, 2017, the Committee had accepted the proposal from Balanced Creative to update the dashboard to better meet the Region's need. Further, a Subcommittee approach had been approved to provide oversight to the project.

He noted that due to the lateness of the hour the Subcommittee's report can be moved to the December meeting agenda. However, Committee identification of the logo preference is requested at this time. Egelhaaf detailed the two logo options presented.

Motion by Peat, **supported** by Latham, to accept Option 1 as the new logo for the RPI. The motion **carried unanimously.**

Next Steps – 2018 RPI Application

Egelhaaf reported that preparation of the 2018 RPI Application is in progress to meet the application deadline of December 1, 2017. He noted that an approach similar to that used in the 2017 application is being employed in the 2018 application. Egelhaaf reminded that the Executive Committee is providing oversight to the process.

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Comments

No Committee member comments were offered.

Adjournment

There being no further items for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 7, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. – Location TBD