

# Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

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June 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members Present:** Jakki Bungart-Bibb (phone), Vince Carahaly, Michael Evans, Joanna Johnson, Pat Karr, Angela Little (phone), Bob Miller (phone), Zach Morris, Richard Remus, Tom Richardson, Barbara Rose, Brian Sanada, Jon Start (phone)

**Committee Members Absent:** Jill Bland, Kenneth High, Bridgette Jones, Ken Jones, Jan Karazim, Shane Kissak, Deb Miller, David Reid, Rachel Wade

**Also Present:** John Egelhaaf, Lee Adams, Rebecca Harvey

## Call to Order

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

## Introduction of Members

Introductions of Committee members and guests were made.

## Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

## Approval of Minutes – *February 1, 2018, March 1, 2018, May 3, 2018*

It was noted that page 1, Approval of Minutes discussion in the May 3, 2018 minutes should be revised to reference postponement of action to the June meeting instead of the May meeting.

**Motion** by Johnson, **supported** by Remus, to approve the February 1, 2018 minutes as presented; the March 1, 2018 minutes as presented; and, the May 3, 2018 minutes as revised. The motion **carried unanimously**.

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## **Citizen Comments**

Brian Gunderson, MDNR, announced that the Village of Paw Paw graduated as the Region 8 Project Rising Tide community and that the City of Albion has been selected as the next PRT community for the Region. He added that the MDNR is currently assisting the Village of Paw Paw regarding a recently approved canoe launch, an aging dam, and a trail system.

Carahaly stated that the program ‘Understanding Tourism for Michigan Communities’ was held just prior to the RPI Committee meeting. He noted that the session was well attended and that development of a regional tourism plan is being considered.

No further citizen comments were offered.

## **Monthly Financial Report**

Egelhaaf provided an overview of the 2018 Financial Report for the RPI – Region 8. He noted that the report reflects that expenses to date are on track and that all line items remain under-budget. He noted that additional draws have been made for the 2017 funded projects.

Karr questioned if the 2017 projects would be presented to the Committee when they were completed. Egelhaaf noted that the projects should be completed by the beginning of 2019 and that presentations will be scheduled.

## **Presentation: Synopsis of Findings from RPI Talent Match Project**

With the use of a powerpoint presentation, Adams provided the Committee with the findings of the RPI Talent Match Project titled: Southwest Michigan’s Talent Ecosystem.

He noted that the report has been presented to a number of groups and revised in response to feedback provided.

The following findings of the report were summarized:

- unemployment rates have fully recovered; labor force participation has not
- region to become more dependent on newcomers
- talent attraction, retention and development are key to Michigan’s future workforce
- regional workforce is generally older

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- occupations with the highest concentration in the region are largely middle/high skill occupations
- low skill and seasonal occupations are more vulnerable to market volatility
- elements of Talent Attraction (jobs, quality of place, schools, cost of living, avoidance of natural disasters)
- elements of Talent Retention (job satisfaction, employment supports, age)
- elements of Talent Development (education, workforce development, matching education and business needs)
- ideas for action - - What can SWMPI Do?

Adams noted that the focus of the action ideas was to establish working groups/committees dedicated to talent attraction, retention and development.

Committee members agreed that the RPI platform could be used to support these ideas. The next step was determined to include creating a focus and then developing specific strategies related to each area (attraction; retention; development) that could be moved forward as funds became available.

## Committee Bylaws

### *Membership:*

Carahaly requested Committee consideration of the proposal to add Mark Reynolds, Kevin Ford and Dorla Bonner to the RPI Collaborative Committee as non-voting members. He also requested the addition of Angela Little to the Committee as a voting member.

**Motion** by Richardson, **supported** by Johnson to approve the membership additions as proposed. The motion **carried unanimously**.

### *Best Practices:*

Carahaly stated that in consideration of the difficulty experienced in getting a quorum of the Committee present at meetings, it has been noted that many of the Regions have established an 'executive committee' with a more robust role. He requested Committee consideration of an approach that would establish an 'executive committee' of five members that would meet monthly and be vested with the authority to make administrative decisions and act on requested items. The Collaborative Committee would meet quarterly and be responsible for major action items of the RPI. He added that the Committee would be kept informed on RPI matters through regular email updates.

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Adams noted that the suggested approach would allow more nimble action on the part of the RPI and result in more meaningful Committee meetings.

Rose opined that the proposal should be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion. She suggested that Committee members be informed of the planned discussion to encourage attendance.

Johnson requested that staff red-line the existing bylaws to include the suggested approach and to provide the draft text to the Committee for review in preparation for a July discussion.

Remus stated that he feels rushed and that the discussion is undefined.

Karr agreed that a review of the proposed amendments to the bylaws is necessary prior to discussion.

**Motion** by Johnson, **supported** by Morris, to request the provision of red-lined bylaws for Committee review, discussion and possible action in August. The motion **carried unanimously**.

## Committee Member Comments

Chair Carahaly reminded that a subcommittee is being formed to consider amendments to the bylaws and that members interested in serving should advise staff.

## Adjournment

There being no further items for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**            *July Meeting - TBD*

*August 2, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. – Van Buren ISD Conference Center  
(Lawrence)*