



Region 8 Prosperity Committee Meeting Agenda

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2016
MEETING TIME: 2:30 pm
MEETING LOCATION: Van Buren Conference Center
490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064

1. **Call to Order & Introductions**
2. **Action:** Approval of the Agenda
3. **Action:** Approval of the Minutes
4. **Citizen Comments**
5. **Discussion:** Monthly Financial Report
6. **Discussion:** Long-Term Vision for Prosperity Committee/Organization
 - a. Facilitation through Don Edgerly
7. **Discussion:** Regional Initiatives
 - a. Updates on state projects with RPI involvement
 - b. Update on state-wide prosperity plan
8. **Discussion/Action:** Resolution of Support for Continued RPI Funding
 - a. Review and take action on a Resolution of Support for RPI Funding
 - b. In light of potential reduced funding, the Michigan Association of Regions is encouraging RPI regions to petition state legislators to support continued funding
9. **Discussion/Action:** Project Selection
 - a. Update on the RFP process
 - b. Timeline
10. **Discussion:** Regional Organization Inventory
11. **Committee Member Comments**
12. **Action:** Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 2, 2016 at
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 W Main St - Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Southwest Michigan RPI Collaborative Committee

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Committee Members Present: Jill Bland, Ben Damerow, Michael Evans, Luann Harden, Ken Jones, Jan Karazim, Pat Karr, Shelley Klug, Jason Latham, Dan Peat (delegate of Corey Carolla), Ron Reid, Richard Remus, Barbara Rose, Jon Start

Committee Members Absent: Dennis Berkebile, Therese Cody, Corey Carolla, Barbara Craig, Grant Fletcher, Kenneth High, Bridgette Jones, Lynn Johnson, Deb Miller, Juanita Miller, David Reid, Rachel Wade

Also Present: Lee Adams, Rebecca Harvey

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Reid, **supported** by Remus, to approve the March 3, 2016 minutes as presented. The motion **carried unanimously**.

Citizen Comments

No citizen comment was offered.

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Election of Chairperson

Acting Chairperson Evans stated that, in response to the recent resignation of Berkebile as Committee Chairperson, a request for nominations for Chairperson had gone out to the Committee membership. Two (2) nominations have been received: Michael Evans – Literacy Council (Adult Education) and Ken Jones – WMU (Higher Education)

Brief statements were made by the nominees. In recognition of past service to the RPI and in consideration of a willingness to serve, **motion** by Reid, **supported** by Bland, to elect Evans to serve as Chairperson of the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Region for 2016. The **motion carried**.

With the election of Evans as Chairperson, a request for nominations for Secretary was made. **Motion** by Remus, **supported** by Rose, to nominate/elect Ken Jones to replace Evans as Secretary of the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Region for 2016. The **motion carried**.

Evans gave a brief perspective on the concept of ‘regional prosperity’, encouraging Committee thought on 1) the Committee’s responsibility of defining the RPI’s role in making our region more prosperous; and, 2) the scope of a ‘regionally-significant’ project.

Monthly Financial Report

Adams noted that no bills have been submitted since last month and that the financial report remains unchanged from March.

Regional Initiatives

Karazim: advised on an intercollegiate project to provide affordable education and target offering special programs between the schools so as to bring a critical mass of prospective students together.

It was noted that ‘Career Pathways’ offered at the high school level is a sub-regional program designed to provide a required workforce . . . and should operate more regionally.

Adams: the March meeting of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) emphasized the creation of a state-wide plan that incorporates all of the regional plans. Some resistance was offered from a few regions but the project is largely supported. MAR is moving forward

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with retaining a consultant to prepare the State Plan, with every region agreeing to allocate 2% of its budget to the project. The \$2300 allocation was approved by the Committee in January.

Evans: there would be value in receiving quarterly (or monthly) reports from Region 8 partners to learn about project progress and see where sector work is intersecting. A framework for the updates can be provided in the monthly meeting agenda.

Latham: MDOT is going after major funding sources to widen I-94. The original project extended from US-131 to Sprinkle Road - - only the 2.3 mile section from Westnedge to Sprinkle Road remains. MDOT is requesting a letter of support from the RPI. **Motion** by Remus, **supported** by Reid, to offer RPI support for MDOT's application to complete the project to widen I-94. **Motion carried.**

Bland/Klug: Perot Food – expanding to food processing, 74 new jobs; Eagle Technology – 50,000 sq ft expansion/high-tech machinery, 100 new jobs; Hanson – 200 new jobs; Impact Label – expansion project, 20 new jobs; Seneca Medical – expansion project, 10 new jobs; Pfiser – expansion project, 78 new jobs; Pro-Services – adding a training component; SW MI Innovation Center – partnering with WMU Medical School to operate an incubator element in conjunction with medical research; American Axle – wage increase to \$14.00/hour, 400 new jobs; Forest River project (RV sector) – 398 new jobs over next 1-2 years.

Evans: what is Region 8's target employment for 'prosperity' in the region? . . . this discussion will help the RPI focus its energy. (Bland: reference Transformation Agenda for response)

Project Selection

Adams provided an overview of the results from the project survey conducted subsequent to the Committee's decision in March to support a single-project approach and to survey the Committee membership for project ideas.

He noted that seven projects were identified and that two of the seven had garnered top scores: 1) Tapping the Resources of Education to Solve Regional Challenges, and 2) Connecting Education, Business, and Community Development to Enhance Talent. Project Survey Results and Project Descriptions were provided.

Adams indicated that proposals in these two areas will be solicited to identify a single significant project for the Region.

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Peat opined that Project #2 does not seem to be an appropriate emphasis for the RPI. Bland questioned if this (Project #2) is already happening.

Jones stated that the RPI can be the one to bring it all together in the Region. He noted that there is currently no coordination or aggregation of efforts . . . only individual programs. The RPI has an opportunity to facilitate the dialogue, broaden the scope, and manage an alignment of efforts.

Evans suggested that only encouragement from the RPI may be needed . . . and not necessarily investment. He questioned the need to check the pulse of the RPI partners as to the validity of the project.

Jones offered additional configurations through which the RPI could provide focus and steer collaboration. Evans urged that our question consistently be how to ‘move the needle’ to show that we have improved our impact on regional prosperity.

Bland suggested a request for proposals in the top three project areas and see what comes back. The proposals can be reviewed according to the criteria established to identify regional impact/significance.

Adams agreed to develop a ‘request for proposal’ that targets the top three project areas . . . and further encourages the incorporation of more than one area into a proposal . . . for review/approval by the executive committee for distribution.

Bland requested that the RFP require each proposal to identify outcomes and a plan for sustainability.

Long-Term Vision for Prosperity Committee/Organization

Committee members agreed that discussion of the long-term vision for the RPI and its movement to Tier 2 would be postponed to the May meeting due to the lateness of the hour. It was noted that the discussion today will help direct the conversation in May. Adams offered the use of the on-staff facilitator for this exercise.

Committee Member Comments

No Committee member comments were offered.

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Adjournment

There being no further items for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 5, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. – Van Buren County Technology Center

2016 Financial Report Regional Prosperity Initiative - Region 8

Line Items	Current Month	Year to Date 3/31/2016	2016 Budget	2016 Grant Award	2015 Obligated#	2014-2015 Roll Over *
REVENUE						
RPI Grants			\$192,968.00	\$115,000.00		\$192,968.00
Total Revenue			\$307,968.00	\$115,000.00		\$192,968.00
EXPENSE						
Staffing						
SWMPC		\$ 4,729.07	\$27,103.28	\$10,290.32		\$16,812.96
SWMPC Indirect		\$ 883.70				
SMPC		\$ 17,338.18	\$35,794.00	\$13,595.63		\$22,198.37
Rebecca Harvey			\$8,400.00	\$3,189.23		\$5,210.77
Meeting Expenses						
Travel Meals Lodging		\$ 722.55	\$300.00	\$113.90		\$186.10
Telephone		\$ 21.61	\$75.00	\$28.48		\$46.52
Printing		\$ -	\$1,000.00	\$379.67		\$620.33
Supplies & Materials		\$ 54.68	\$200.00	\$75.93		\$124.07
Room Rental		\$ 995.44	\$5,076.00			\$5,076.00
RPI Committee Reimbursement			\$12,000.00	\$4,556.09		\$7,443.91
Contractual Serv. - 2015						
Projects						
Comm. Develop 2015¥			(\$27,750)	\$10,535.93	(\$40,000)	\$17,214.07
Education 2015¥		\$ 25,000.00	(\$17,500)	\$6,650.00	(\$37,500)	\$10,850.00
Infrastructure 2015¥			(\$35,000)	\$13,300.00	(\$40,000)	\$21,700.00
RPI Strategies						
Contractual Serv. - 2016						
Projects						
Dashboard			\$103,947.72	\$38,017.46		\$65,930.26
			\$2,000.00	\$759.34		\$1,240.66
Other						
Tier Two			\$20,000.00	\$7,593.47		\$12,406.53
Regional Studies			\$7,500.00	\$2,847.55		\$4,652.45
Econ Dev Blue Print + 10 yr Plan			\$2,022.00	\$767.00		\$1,255.00
Statewide Plan			\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00		
Total Expense	\$0.00	\$ 49,745.23	\$227,718.00	\$115,000.00		\$192,968.00
Total Remaining Encumbered Expense	(\$80,250.00)	(\$55,250.00)	(\$80,250.00)			
Total Expense	\$0.00	\$49,745.23	\$307,968.00	\$115,000.00	(\$117,500)	\$192,968.00

* "2014-2015 Roll Over" as of January 31, 2016

"2015 Obligated" reflects total amounts committed to projects

¥ Project expenses reflect remaining expense as of January 31, 2016



Region 8 Prosperity Committee

May 5, 2016

RE: Letter in Support of FY 2017 Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant Funding

Dear _____,

On behalf of the Region 8 Prosperity Committee (Committee), I would like to express the importance of maintaining funding for the Regional Prosperity Initiative as part of the state's FY 2017 budget.

Over the past two plus years, the program has worked to align strategies and priorities across our region. Representative from agencies from across the region and various sectors have routinely gathered to encourage prosperity throughout the region; something that seldom happened before the advent of this initiative. Additionally, the Committee has produced two volumes of a regional prosperity plan along and prepared reports and supported local projects.

The prosperity plan development process inspired the Committee to develop goals and objectives for the region. Those goals included: improve the livability of our region's communities to attract and retain talented workers, promote talent development and retention to encourage growth and sustainability in all facets of the local economy, encourage expansion and improvement of regional infrastructure, and advance regional communication and collaboration. To fulfill the plan's goals and objectives, funding was devoted to support local projects that worked to accomplish one or more of the Committee's goals. Furthermore, the goals and objectives were developed with a five-year time horizon. Ending the Regional Prosperity Initiative after its third year would not allow the region to accomplish its five-year goals.

The funding we receives through the Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant was, and currently is, a crucial part of the process as we work through projects to implement the strategies identified in our prosperity plan. We believe continued work on this initiative will lead to significant investment and progress in our region. As a region, we would like to continue the positive relationships this initiative has helped to created; continued funding would allow relationships in the region to expand and deepen. Furthermore, continued funding would allow the Committee to improve the prosperity in the region by implementing targeted projects.

Sincerely,

Michael Evens
Region 8 Prosperity Committee Chairperson