



# Grand Vision Growth & Investment Areas

## Regional Network Meeting

Monday, November 19th, 2012: 2p.m. – 4p.m.  
1209 S. Garfield Ave.– Michigan Works!

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*Mission Statement: Facilitate the growth and entrepreneurial culture of unique cities and villages that strengthen our region by encouraging business development, removing barriers, utilizing incentives, and fostering public and private improvements.*

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Welcome & Introductions

Marc McKeller (GTCRC)

Josh Mills (Frankfort)

Hugh Campbell (Ellsworth)

Mary Faculak (East Jordan Chamber of Commerce)

Liz McKellar (TCACC/TBEDC)

Jason Jones (GTC Parks & Rec)

Blake Smith (USDA)

Cheryl Werth (Elk Rapids Harbor)

Adam Umbrasas (Kingsley)

Penny Hill (Kalkaska)

Sharon Vreeland (Acme Twp)

Bob Carstens (GTC Planning Commission)

Tom Emling (MSUE)

Mark Randolph (Kalkaska County)

Rob Serrine (MSUE)

Susan Cocciarelli (MSUE/NWMCOG)

Sarah Lucas (NWMCOG)

Scott Gest (NWMCOG)

Mike Woods (NWMCOG)

#### II. UPDATE - Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

##### A. Sarah Lucas (NWMCOG)

- a. The Grand Action plan will be a living document that communities can use for local decision-making. It will include plans for Housing, Transportation, Land Use, and Energy. The plan will be developed through citizen input. The Grand Vision networks and the core partners will convene public work sessions in each of the six counties. The plan will be completed by summer of 2014.

#### III. Regional Food Systems

##### A. Susan Cocciarelli / Rob Serrine (MSUE/NWMCOG)

- a. Regional food economy is a foundational area of growth. There is a much greater demand than supply for fresh/local food and much more awareness of the nutritional value along with the source of the food. Farms are getting smaller in size, but more in number, need to form a regional cooperative. Diverse value added produce present more opportunities for farmers due to the significant supply and demand for diverse agriculture in the region.

##### B. Sarah Lucas – Food Innovation Districts (NWMCOG)

- a. These are a geographic concentration of food-oriented businesses, services, and community activities which local governments support through planning and economic development initiatives. There are 3 types of district activity including producer-oriented, community – oriented, and place oriented. There are multiple types of activity within each of these district activities. Champions and Plans of food innovation districts should focus on assessments, Initiating project, and implementing.



#### IV. Community Updates

- A. City of Cadillac – An outline of the complete streets plan/policy has been created
- B. Village of Ellsworth – Accepting bids on an electronic message board for the farmers market
- C. Village of Empire – A list of four/ five consultants will be chosen for the Planning commission to review
- D. City of Frankfort – In the early stages of implementing WiFi. Creating a RFP for providers.
- E. Grand Traverse County - Working on the strategic plan to create a recreational hub where government, private, and non-profit recreational organizations can work together to share information and resources.
- F. Kalkaska County - Working with COG on a Recreation Plan for the County
- G. Village of Kalkaska - The Village with the assistance of a Community Growth Grant is in the process acquiring an entire city block for the purpose of redevelopment.
- H. Village of Kingsley - Awarded funding to assist in a public outdoor art display project.

#### VI. Adjourn

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*This meeting is open to all who wish to attend.* If you are planning to attend and have a disability requiring any special assistance at the meeting, please notify the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments – Matt McCauley (231-929-5061/E-mail at [mccauley@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:mccauley@nwm.cog.mi.us))