



# Grand Vision Growth & Investment Areas

## Regional Network Meeting

Monday, October 8th, 2012: 10a.m. – 12p.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 (10:00 a.m.)

Bob Carstens (Acme Twp.)  
Sharon Vreeland (Acme Twp.)  
Wayne Kladder (Acme Twp.)  
Lindy Bishop (Elk Rapids DDA)  
Tom Callison (GTB Ottawa/Chippewa)  
Connor Miller (Northsky)  
Joe Meyers (Antrim County)  
Justin Sterk (Rotary Charities)  
Liz McKellar (TC Chamber)  
Mary Faculak (EJ/Ellsworth/Atwood Chamber)  
Hugh Campbell (Ellsworth)  
Mike Woods (NWMCOG)

Jan Kellogg (NLEA/NWMCOG)  
Janie McNabb (NWMCOG)  
Virginia Tegel (Acme Twp.)  
Carol Karas (Kalkaska County)  
Kathy Egan (Suttons Bay Twp.)  
Kurt Schindler (MSU Extension)  
Tom Emling (MSU North)  
Paul Skinner (Empire)  
Jim Lively (MLUI)  
Mac McClelland (Otwell Mawby)  
Scott Gest (NWMCOG)

#### II. UPDATE - Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – Grand Vision events (10:05 a.m.)

- A. Janie McNabb (NWMCOG)
- There will be an expo-type event for the Grand Action plan taking place early 2013. This will include individual discussion tables for transportation, housing, land use, energy, and social equity issues.

#### III. UPDATE – Brownfield funding opportunities (10:15 a.m.)

- A. Mac McClelland – Manger, Brownfield Redevelopment - Otwell Mawby, P.C.
- Brownfields are contaminated land and blighted or obsolete buildings, and are barriers to growth and investment. Alleviating Brownfield conditions requires money that does not yield a return, but there are funding sources that can cover costs. Most Brownfield funding is based on private investment. It takes time and money to secure Brownfield funding.

#### IV. Community Updates, Sharing, and Public Comment (11:15 a.m.)

- A. Acme Township Placemaking initiative
- The goal is to reinvent the US-31 Shoreline corridor to create a vibrant and accessible mixed use and recreation district using the principles of Placemaking as a guidebook. An open house produced lots of comments on how to improve the Marina and Bayside Park. The township would like the final product to be a waterfront mixed use district that includes retail/restaurants, offices, residential, lodging and recreation. Visit [acmeshores.org](http://acmeshores.org)



- B. Introduction of 2012 Community Growth Grantees – Scott Gest
- The following communities were either selected to receive funding or technical assistance to complete their proposed community initiatives
    - i. Kalkaska County – Recreation plan
    - ii. Village of Empire – Transportation plan
    - iii. Village of Ellsworth – Marketing the Farmer’s market
    - iv. City of Cadillac – Complete Streets policy
    - v. Village of Kingsley – Public outdoor art display project
    - vi. GT Parks & Rec Dept. – Web application development
    - vii. City of Frankfort – Implement community WiFi
- C. Education workshop - Agricultural Economic Development
- Takes place Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> . Register at - <http://www.nwm.org/main-site/news/news-article.html/111/>
- D. Community sharing
- Elk rapids working on waste water facility and branding campaign, complete street analysis, and in discussion about a regional non-motorized trail extension.
  - Connect MI finished up the Charlevoix plan and is currently working in Wexford County
  - Breezeway has 4th annual color cruise on Oct.20th (<http://www.ridethebreezeway.com/>)
  - Ellsworth will put up a message board on the corner of C65/C43 (breezeway).
  - Empire looking to leverage more funding for upgrade to their community WiFi system
  - Tom Emling - more than 100 people participated in the poverty reduction seminar.
  - Lindy Bishop - Communities are getting together to share bay front planning challenges. Talking about branding and wayfinding to have a regional theme but highlight unique assets.

**V. Adjourn (12:00 p.m.)**

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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))