



Grand Vision Growth & Investment Areas

Regional Network Meeting

Monday, August 13th, 2012: 10a.m. – 12p.m.

1209 S. Garfield Ave.– Michigan Works!

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.

Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions (10:00 a.m.)

- Sharon Vreeland – Acme Twp
- Bob Carstens – GTCPC
- Lou Nemeth – Citizen Representative
- Blake Smith – Rural Development
- Marc McKellar – GT Co. Road Commission and Member's Credit Union
- Connor Miller – NorthSky/Rotary Charities
- Sheri Rhoads – NLEA
- Liz McKellar – TCCC
- Cheryl Werth – Village of Elk Rapids
- Joe Meyers – Antrim County
- Mary Faculak – Ellsworth/Atwood/East Jordan Chamber of Commerce
- Hugh Campbell – Ellsworth
- Kim Pontius – TAAR
- Penny Hill – Village of Kalkaska
- Carol Karas – Kalkaska DDA
- Kathy Egan – Suttons Bay Twp and Bingham Twp
- Kurt Schindler – MSU Extension
- John Sych – GT County
- Jack Kelly – Elmwood Twp
- Wally Delamater – Village of Suttons Bay
- Jim Lively – MLUI
- Zach Higgett – FIM Group and As Local As Possible
- Bruce Odom – Odom RE-USE Co. and As Local As Possible
- Mike Woods – NWMCOG
- Scott Gest – NWMCOG
- Kirstie Sieloff – NWMCOG

II. UPDATE - Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (10:15 a.m.)

- A. Mike Woods on behalf of Janie McNabb – NWMCOG
 - The Grand Action Plan – “Focused on our future.” This tagline will be used for all Grand Vision promotional campaigns. The plan will focus on each sub-plan and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2014.



- Grand Vision Awards – Submit a nomination for anyone who has helped realize the Grand Vision. October 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11 will be the dates of the Grand Vision “Roadshow.” Please save these dates on your calendar and watch website for more information on upcoming events.
- **ACTION REQUESTED:** Attention local units of government! Please send Mike Woods any economic, growth, and/or investment plans, studies, and strategies by the end of September so we may include this information in the Grand Action Plan.

III. Local Business development (10:30 a.m.)

A. “As Local as Possible”

I. Bruce Odom, Odom RE-USE Co.

- Member of “As Local as Possible.” This is a group of investors who meet in a casual setting and have entrepreneurs pitch ideas. Members can then informally meet with entrepreneurs and work out an investment contract. As a member of the club, but also an investor, Bruce was able to get small loans and pays his interest with Bay Bucks. More information can be found at aslocalaspossible.blogspot.com or email aslocalaspossible@gmail.com.

II. Zach Liggett, FIM Group

- Private investor money is a massive pool of capital available in our community. Invest money sitting in the bank locally and get higher returns. In Zach’s experience, Entrepreneurs look to locate to areas that have good schools and tight-knit, family-friendly communities that provide the necessary infrastructure to help grow their business. There will be a workshop with author/entrepreneur Michael Schuman on October 3rd. Location details will be confirmed shortly.

IV. 2011 Community Growth Grantee Updates (11:30 a.m.)

A. Acme Twp.

- In the process of completing a shoreline placemaking study along US 31 and working towards a September 30th conclusion. There will be an open house on Aug 28th from 4-7 p.m. at the Williamsburg Showcase Dinner Theater.

B. Elk Rapids

- Property update—22 docks, 17 of which are seasonal have been installed. The old mustard factory has been cleared and they are now looking at what the community would like to see on that property.

C. Ellsworth

- Is marketing the community through a newly established farmers market. There is funding available for promotion, which will be the next step to enhance the market’s visibility.

D. Elmwood Twp.

- Closed on a key property for the Greilickville commercial corridor. The property will assist in meeting parking needs for the future activity centers. A grant for the engineering has been approved. The corridor subarea master plan is to be approved by September 30th.

E. Honor

- No update



- F. Kalkaska
 - Is working through the DDA for the design and purchase of way-finding system. They will be sending MDOT the final specs before final approval is given. They are working towards September 30th to have approval.
- G. Mesick
 - Is at the last stages of completing a new master plan.

V. Community Updates, Sharing, and Public Comment (11:45 a.m.)

- A. New NWMCOG Staff member – Scott Gest
 - Scott has an economic development background and has 20 years of experience in real estate development. Welcome to NWMCOG!
- B. 2012 Community Growth Grants
 - September 7th is the deadline for the next community grants, which will have an implementation focus. Communities can receive up to \$15,000. All units of government within the Grand Vision area are eligible to apply.
- C. Education workshops on Historic Preservation and Placemaking in September
 - These workshops will offer a more advanced course including information on fiscal implications to local units of governments to implement placemaking and historic preservation in their communities. MSHDA will be the presenters for these workshops taking place on September 17th – Manistee; 18th – Traverse City; 19th – Petoskey. Information and registration can be found on the NWMCOG website
- D. MDOT State Long-Range Planning
 - Public meetings for the state long-range plan will take place at Michigan Works! on Wednesday, August 15th from 5-7p.m. No RSVP required.

VI. Adjourn (12:00 p.m.)

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)