Fall 2026
CEDS Strategy Committee
Quarterly Economic Development Meeting
October 30, 2026

Meeting Notes

Agenda

1) WMSRDC Update
2) EDA Latest
3) EDA Investment Priorities
4) 2027 Meeting Schedule
5) Roundtable

Attendance:

Mark Kraus, Newaygo County EDP	Dan Tavernier, City of Whitehall
Kristi Zimmerman, Mason County Chamber Alliance	Tom Hopper, GVSU HUB
Greg Poches, Fremont Area Community Foundation	Mark Kinney, WSCC
Nicole Kleiner, City of Hart	Curtis Burdette, Oceana County Economic Alliance
Jodi Gruner, MDARD	Phil Morse, Village of Shelby
Emily Medendorp, GMED	Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC
Darryl Todd, MEDC	Stephen Carlson, WMSRDC

1) WMSRDC Update

- ERC Fellowship Update
  - Today is Annika's last day 😟
  - Highlights:
    - Successful EDA Agriculture Cluster Analysis
    - Consolidation of information (will be available)
    - Setting up Ag Coalition
- WM Agriculture Coalition Update
  - Forum for networking and strategic support and coordination in ag & food processing sectors
  - Cooperation with Jamie Rye, West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
  - Met on Wednesday October 28
  - Funding needed!
    - WMSRDC applied to USDA-RD for a planning grant
      - Support Agribusiness (implementation of the EDA grant completed last year)
      - Regional waste generation assessment
      - West Michigan Food & Ag Plan – actionable path forward
      - Continue to further establish the Coalition
    - LOI for a Rural Development Fund grant submitted
  - Message Stephen to participate or just stay informed scarlson@wmsrdc.org
- TRP/MMTC Food Processors Council to get going
- Project development
  - WMSRDC is eager and willing to discuss potential projects for EDA assistance.

Current EDA Grants in the Region
1) Lake County Economic Diversification

Submitted Applications
1) Whitehall Infrastructure

Potential Projects
1) Newaygo City
2) GVSU Entrepreneurial
3) FARM

        - Both construction & non-construction projects!
    - EDA grants start at 60% federal/**40% local match**. Grant rate can be more favorable for an applicant depending on factors such as economic distress
    - Narratives must focus on job creation (high skill, high wage) and private investment
    - Contact WMSRDC early on to increase chances of a successful application!

2) EDA Latest

- No updates from EDA
- Lee Shirey to visited on August 19 to explore/develop projects
- Presidential disaster declaration may make EDA applications more successful next FY

3) EDA Investment Priorities

- https://www.eda.gov/funding/investment-priorities
- Review from last meeting:
    - Workforce: Economic Development planning or implementation projects that –
        - support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or otherwise promote labor force participation.
    - Manufacturing: Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage –
        - job creation,
        - business expansion,
        - technology and capital upgrades, and
        - productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that –
    - Support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;
    - Promote business development and lending; or
    - Foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

4) 2027 Schedule

- Proposed 2027 meeting schedule→→
- Will begin the CEDS update at end of the year
- We are accepting suggestions for meeting topics!

January 29
April 30
July 30
October 29

5) Roundtable Notes *What are you what are you working on or struggling with? What would you like to promote?*

- Newaygo County
    - Mark Kraus
        - Transportation department working with employers, dial-a-ride model
        - Housing is a key priority
        - Ag & land-based growth in the county
- Mason County
    - Kristi Zimmerman
        - 140 units (Railview Lofts) in Pere Marquette Township
        - Foster elementary redevelopment in the works
        - Manufacturing Council started up to address workforce development issues

        - Trades shortage, hard to attract developers for workforce development
        - Harbison Walker property on MiSites (MEDC)
        - Nov 12: WSCC Business and Economics summit
        - TAP grant application for a 4-mile trail segment – Ludington to PMT connection
- West Shore Community College
    - Mark Kinney
        - November 6: Hart Community Center opening, ribbon cutting
- Oceana County
    - Curtis Burdette
        - Small business activity
        - Monthly coffee roundtable at The Starting Block
        - Dr. Gene Hardy (MSU) automation in ag & food processing, 5-year grant
    - Nicole Kleiner
        - $2.2m streetscape completion
        - 60-unit housing development (TIFA)
        - Water/sewer rate adjustments
- FACF
    - Mark Kraus
        - Fall grant rounds
        - Housing priorities – no applications during the last round
        - Newaygo County Tourism Council, NCEDP
- GMED
    - Emily Medendorp
        - $1.2 B investment in Muskegon County
        - December 1 - Housing workshop in partnership with Muskegon County
        - MILEAP grant in partnership with MCC – adult certifications, credit
        - Fruitland Township trail grant connecting state parks
        - North Muskegon – visioning & corridor improvement plan
- Whitehall
    - Dan Tavernier
        - Match on Main grant – downtown improvements
        - Waiting on EDA grant for infrastructure improvements
        - Downtown promenade RAP grant
- Shelby Village
    - Phil Morse
        - Downtown streetscape project coming next year (state appropriation)
        - 5 buildings demolished; 2-3 story multi-use buildings to replace
        - DWSRF – lead line replacements underway
- Muskegon Innovation Hub
    - Tom Hopper
        - Small business expo
        - Pitch competition
        - Small business hub 2.0 grant $450k set aside for small business assistance
- MDARD
    - Jodi Gruner
        - Grant opportunity – scratch cooking pilot 100k grant to local source food in schools
        - Great Lakes Expo in December in Muskegon
        - Craft beverage event in March