

Meeting Notes

Agenda

- 1) WMSRDC Update
- 2) EDA Latest
- 3) EDA Investment Priorities
- 4) Roundtable

Attendance:

Tobi Lake, Lake County
Jodi Nichols, Lake County
Mark Kraus, Newaygo County
Kristi Zimmerman, Mason County

Current EDA Grants in the Region

- 1) City of Hart: Wastewater Upgrades
- 2) Lake County Economic Diversification

Submitted Applications

- 1) Whitehall Infrastructure
- 2) WMSRDC 3-yr Planning Grant

Potential Projects

- 1) Lee Shirey to visit Muskegon on August 19!

Mark Kinney, West Shore CC
Sue DeVries, MEDC
Stephen Carlson, WMSRDC

1) WMSRDC Update

- WM Agriculture Coalition Update
 - Met on July 23
 - Future Coalition meetings will be held on the **4th Thursday** of the month, with virtual monthly meetings and biannual in-person planning meetings. The next meeting will be held **virtually** on **August 27th at 10am**.
 - WMSRDC applied to USDA-RD for a planning grant
 - Support Agribusiness (implementation of the EDA grant completed last year)
 - Regional waste generation assessment – BLU Muskegon food waste reclamation center
 - West Michigan Food & Ag Plan – actionable path forward
 - Continue to further establish the Coalition
 - Message Annika to participate or just stay informed, agacnik@economicrecoverycorps.org
- Project development
 - WMSRDC is always eager and willing to discuss potential projects for EDA assistance.
 - 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 (local unemployment and/or per capita income, compared to national levels)
 - Contact WMSRDC early in the project development phase to increase chances of a successful application!

2) EDA Latest

- No updates from EDA
- Lee Shirey to visit on August 19
- 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:
 - **Economic Recovery Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-

term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.

- **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.

4) Roundtable Notes

- What are you what are you working on? What are you struggling with? What would you like to promote?
- Lake County
 - 3-yr EDA planning & capacity coming to a close
 - Community event October 27
 - Many initiatives to pursue!
 - County workforce network and housing coalition are active
 - Land Bank
 - Former restaurant converted into commercial space (see attached flyer)
 - Current homeowner rehabilitation grant
 - Residential Re-entry facility in Baldwin may re-open!
- Newaygo County
 - May receive a MDOT grant to pilot expansion of the county's on demand public transportation services
 - Planning for development of 200+ acres in City of Newaygo
 - Currently conducting a workforce needs survey: [Workforce Needs Survey](#)
 - 5x5 Start Garden Pitch Competition August 25 (see attached flyer)
- Mason County
 - Foreclosure auction upcoming including former Foster Elementary
 - Public water/sewer is a challenge for new housing
 - Trails project ongoing to connect with regional trail systems
 - Former Harbison-Walker sites to be included in MI Sites program (MEDC)
 - Trying to re-establish the Mason Co Manufacturers Network
 - Lakeshore Food Club/Hub doing well in Ludington and Hart
 - Focus on work-based learning network
- West Shore Community College
 - New Hart satellite expected to open in October
 - Pool renovation underway
 - New EMS mobile training trailer
 - Potential for administration building renovation
- MEDC
 - MEDC has a budget for upcoming fiscal year
 - Likely shifting away from issuing grants, to loaning funds
 - Programs are likely to change somewhat

Upcoming 2026 Meeting Schedule:

October 30 - EDA Investment Priorities: **Innovation & Entrepreneurship**

THE LANDING

A Place for What's Next



Open House

Thursday, August 27th - 3-6pm
1075 Washington St., US-10 just East of 37
Baldwin, MI

Be among the first to experience The Landing:

- Tour the space
- Enjoy cake, beverages, & community
- Celebrate a Lake County Land Bank Authority Project

5X5

North

**START
GARDEN**

Calling all Entrepreneurs from
**Lake, Mason, Newaygo, &
Oceana Counties!**

PITCH YOUR BUSINESS IDEA.

5 Business Start Ups will give **5** Minute Pitches to a
Panel of **5** Judges. **One** winner will leave with **\$5,000!**

Submissions Open **July 29th**

Submissions Close **August
17th @11:50 PM**

**Finalists must be able to attend the Pitch
event on **August 25 at 5pm in Hart****

To Enter
Submit a simple
description of
your business
idea to:



<https://5x5night.com>

*All submitters will be eligible for **FREE**
ongoing entrepreneurial support services.*



LAKE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ALLIANCE

Powered by The Right Place



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Powered by The Right Place

OCEANA COUNTY
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Powered by The Right Place