Spring 2024 CEDS Strategy Committee Quarterly Economic Development Update April 5, 2024

WEST MI SHORELINE Regional Development Commission

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1) WMSRDC Update

- CEDS five-year update is complete. Still wrapping up some final details, but here is a sneak peek at the final draft.
 - Thanks for input and feedback along the way!
- Should we bring back a "call for projects"? ... stay tuned!

Current EDA Grants in the Region

- Greater Muskegon Economic Development:
 Muskegon Heights Industrial Parks Master Plan
- 2) Muskegon County Broadband Gap Analysis
- 3) City of Hart: Wastewater Upgrades
- 4) Oceana County: Workforce and Economic Diversification Study
- 5) Lake County Economic Diversification

Potential Projects

- 1) Mason County
- 2) FARM
- 3) Hart Community Center

2) EDA Update

- Not many construction projects currently in Michigan, which means increased odds for a project to be awarded. *Contact WMSRDC ASAP if you have a potential project for EDA*.
- EDA federal reauthorization possible!

3) Introducing: Economic Recovery Corps Fellow

- Annika Gacnik, agacnik@economicrecoverycorps.org
- https://economicrecoverycorps.org/
 - See link above to explore the 64 national ERC projects
 - o Let WMSRDC know if you have interest in following the results of any particular project!

4) Broadband

- BEAD challenge process underway for communities and other public/nonprofit institutions
 - o April 23 deadline
 - Assistance available through MIHI "Office Hours." Times and meeting links below. No registration required.
 - Thursday, April 11th 12:30-2:30
 - Tuesday, April 16th 12:30-2:30
 - Thursday, April 18th 12:30-2:30
 - Monday, April 22nd 12:30-2:30

5) Roundtable Notes

- Lake County:
 - housing needs assessment completed
 - consultant selected for EDA study

- land bank active
- o Baldwin farmer's/makers market coming on Wednesdays in June
- o ORV training facility to open memorial weekend through labor day weekend
- o Chamber of Commerce website updated and improved
- Mason County:
 - o Current emphasis on housing, trails, and industrial space
- Oceana County:
 - Monthly broadband task force
 - Developer workshop April 11
 - o EDA study presented April 4 with a facilitated action planning session
- Muskegon County
 - o Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater extension
 - Muskegon Lake close to being removed from Areas of Concern list

Next CEDS Strategy Committee Meetings

- July 26
- October 25