

**Fall 2024**  
**CEDS Strategy Committee**  
**Quarterly Economic Development Meeting**  
**November 8, 2024**



Agenda

- 1) WMSRDC Update
- 2) EDA Update
- 3) Roundtable Discussion

**Meeting Notes**

1) **WMSRDC Update**

- WMSRDC awarded EDA planning grant to gather information to help advance planning and investment in the agriculture sector.
  - Project components:
    - Asset mapping by Michigan State University's RS & GIS (subgrantee)
    - Agriculture economic analysis report by consultant (TBD) to include local direct and indirect impacts of agriculture, region and county-level profiles, comparative analysis to Kent/Ottawa counties, and strategic recommendations.
  - Outcomes to support efforts of the ERC fellow (see below) as well as public sector planning and private sector investments
  - Timeline: contract with consultant in January, economic analysis to be delivered in August, and project completion no later than September.
- CEDS Meetings
  - 2025 meetings will be theme-based, related to CEDS document themes.
  - Will conduct a committee "audit" through the end of 2024. Members can expect to be contacted to have an informal chat about the role of the CEDS Committee.

2) **EDA Update**

- EDA Reauthorization is possible by year-end, as it is tied to the current defense bill. This carries the possibility of increased funding levels, broader eligibility for EDA assistance, and a modernized mandate that might include flexibility to allow for investments in recreation, tourism, housing, etc. tied to economic development.
- Please consider writing a letter to your representatives to show support for EDA reauthorization!

3) **Economic Recovery Corps**

- Annika Gacnik [agacnik@economicrecoverycorps.org](mailto:agacnik@economicrecoverycorps.org)
- <https://economicrecoverycorps.org/>
  - See link above to explore the 64 national ERC projects
- *Let WMSRDC know if you have interest in following the results of any particular ERC project from around the country! We can help get additional information.*

4) **2025 CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting Schedule**

- January 24, April 25, July 25, October 24

**Current EDA Grants in the Region**

- 1) City of Hart: Wastewater Upgrades
- 2) Lake County Economic Diversification
- 3) WMSRDC Ag Cluster Analysis (planning)

**Potential EDA Projects**

- 1) Mason County (planning)
- 2) FARM (equipment/construction)
- 3) Fremont Digester