

Summer 2025
CEDS Strategy Committee
Quarterly Economic Development Meeting
July 25, 2025



Meeting Notes

Agenda

- 1) EDA Update
- 2) WMSRDC Update
- 3) Natural Resources/QOL and the CEDS
- 4) Roundtable Updates

Current EDA Grants in the Region

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

Potential EDA Projects

- 1) Broadband Training (Newaygo County)
- 2) FARM (equipment/construction)

Attendance:

Ken Adamski, Shelby State Bank
Eric Gustad, CMS Energy
Curtis Burdette, Oceana County
Stephen Carlson, WMSRDC
Ryan Coffey-Hoag, MSUE
Sue DeVries, MEDC
Hannah Yurk, MEDC
Nora Balgoyen, ITC

Mark Kinney, WSCC
Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC
Annika Gacnik, ERC Fellow
Trevor Friedeberg, GMED
Phil Morse, Village of Shelby
Tobi Lake, Lake County
Darryl Todd, MEDC

1) EDA Update

- President's budget excluded EDA, but House and Senate subcommittees included it. This is "par for the course" and generally good news for EDA funding prospects.

2) WMSRDC Update

- W. MI Ag Cluster Impact Analysis
- Due by September 30, 2025
 - Team: WMSRDC, Highland Economics, MSU Product Center, MSU RS&GIS
- August 27 AM at WMSRDC reserved for project presentation and work session
- USDA Rural Development application submitted to support implementation and establish a committee

3) Natural Resources & Quality of Life and the CEDS

- Attendees reviewed and discussed the Goal and Objectives outlined in the CEDS.
 - Natural Resources comments & suggestions:
 - Support industries that are based on natural resources
 - Emphasize sustainability of outdoor activities
 - Quality of Life suggestions:
 - The topic of "Smart Growth" is rather dated and might be replaced with "Transect" language.
 - Child care reiterated as a significant issue
 - Consider mention of marketing quality of life
 - Use of "non-motorized" might be replaced with "multi-modal" to encompass both recreational and practical uses.

4) Roundtable Notes

- MEDC:
 - No RAP funding remaining
 - Public Spaces Community Places funding on pause
 - Regional wages median has increased from \$21.90 to \$22.61
- MSU Extension to hold “Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities” conference in Newaygo County, May-June 2026
- Oceana County Developer Day on Friday, September 26
- Muskegon Lake on track for “Areas of Concern” delisting this fall
- WSCC:
 - Offered summer camps to help with summer child care hurdles
 - “Hart Building” on track to open in Fall ‘26
- Welcome Trevor Friedeberg as the new head of Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED)

Next meetings:

October 24 (Friday): Economic Diversity & Regional Integration