



VAN WERT COUNTY • OHIO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Where The Strength Of Our People Provides Opportunity For The Future

**Van Wert County Economic Development Advisory Group
Agenda**

March 17, 2006

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Van Wert County Foundation

- I. Welcome— Kim Elick, Vice President
- II. Information Associate Report – Darlene Myers
- III. Director Report— Nancy Bowen
- IV. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee – Jon Rhoades
 - B. BR&E Committee – Nancy Bowen
 - C. Business Recruitment Committee - Jon Rhoades
 - D. Revolving Loan Committee – Darlene Myers
 - E. Regional Partnerships Committee – Nancy Bowen
 - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Bill Evans
- V. Partnership Organization Reports
 - A. Community Improvement Corporation/Innovation Center –Gary Corcoran
 - B. Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce – Jodie Perry
 - C. Main Street Van Wert - Jane Jones
 - D. Convention Visitors Bureau - Louie Ehmer
 - E. Port Authority – Bill Evans
- VI. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VII. Information and Upcoming Events
 - A. Main Street Van Wert (MSVW) Annual Meeting, March 20, Marsh Hotel
 - B. OSU Chair Leadership Training, March 21-23, Columbus
 - C. Rural Entrepreneurship “Listening Session” at OSU Piketon, March 24, Piketon (satellite from Lima).
 - D. MSVW BR&E Annual “Blitz”, 20+ meetings week of March 27.
 - E. Rural Entrepreneurship EDA Satellite Conference, March 28.
 - F. TEAM Ohio Trade Show, SAE (auto and auto-related industry) World Congress, April 3-5, Detroit
 - G. TEAM Ohio Training: Entrepreneurship as an ED Strategy, April 20, Columbus.
- VIII. Adjourn

Director Report

(March, 2006)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- 40 BR&E survey's received to date from area businesses. 10 visits have been conducted, another 10 are currently being scheduled. Will conduct about 30 visits this year.
- Of the 10 BR&E visits past month, 6 were manufacturers and 4 retail or service businesses. All 6 small to medium sized manufacturers are expanding, and adding a minimum of 40 new jobs in the next year.
- The Southside Business Group will meet as a whole again in April to review status of retail developments on the southside. New owner of Shannon Station, Russell Development Company, from Portland, Oregon, will begin aggressively marketing the site. First Commercial, developer for Summit Shopping Ctr. close to 100% occupancy.

Entrepreneurship and Business Recruitment...

- Worked with two companies interested in locating in Vision Industrial Park. One company, from Springfield, visited this week, touring the community with City officials.
- Submitted a site for a large manufacturer to Chris Chung of the State ODOD this week. The automotive manufacturer would invest \$500 million and hire 2000 people!
- 20 letters and prospect packets were mailed to plastics manufacturers targeted for Van Wert County in the past month. Initially, company officials were called to verify correct contact information.

Tourism and Main Street Redevelopment...

- Participating on CVB Executive Committee search for part-time CVB director. Director will serve to promote Van Wert County as a good place to visit, with Performing Arts Center, historic locations, and many excellent concerts and events as a backdrop.
- Held a Main Street Recruitment Committee meeting this month. Committee members identified businesses they will be contacting on why to locate in downtown Van Wert.

Planning and Administration...

- City, County, ED officials met this month with Ft. Wayne Business Journal reporters on a special focus edition on Van Wert coming out in April.
- Serving on Chamber Home Show Committee to assist with that important annual event.
- Attended meeting with City officials on Job Ready Sites Program held by the Governor's Regional office at Rhodes College in Lima.
- Serve on TEAM Ohio Education Committee. Participated in conference call and meeting this past month to plan for educational programs for ED professionals, including "Entrepreneurship as an ED Strategy".
- MSVW Executive Committee and Design Review Committee this month.
- Participated in Junior Achievement fundraising calls.
- Participated in conference call with the state Community Development Council to plan a rural strategy for response to ESP program (Entrepreneurship Signature Program) through Third Frontier. RFP's are going out in June for regional proposals.
- Participating on regional WorkingEd Committee. Currently conducting "fundraiser": mailing invoices to each of 8 counties and ED offices for \$2,500 to support the web site.