



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

April 21, 2006

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Van Wert YMCA

- I. Welcome— Jon Rhoades, 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. Regional Partnerships Committee – Nancy Bowen
 - E. Agriculture Information Committee – Bill Evans
 - F. Host Committee – Pat Ryan
- V. Partnership Organization Reports
 - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Jon Rhoades
 - B. Innovation Center – Gary Corcoran
 - C. Revolving Loan Funds – Darlene Myers
 - D. Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce – Jodie Perry
 - E. Main Street Van Wert - Jane Jones
 - F. Convention Visitors Bureau - Louie Ehmer
 - G. Port Authority – Bill Evans
- VI. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VII. Information and Upcoming Events
 - A. Southside District Meeting, April 24, 9:00 a.m., I Don't Care Grill
 - B. CIC Meeting, April 26, 9:00 a.m., City Council Board Room
 - C. ODOT Information Meeting, April 27, 9-12 Ford Training Facility
 - D. OSU Extension Knowledge Economy Conf., May 2, OSU Columbus
 - E. Main Street Ohio Conference, May 3-4, Springfield
 - F. Rhodes Career Expo, May 9, 10-2 @ Rhodes State College
 - G. Regional Partnerships Meeting, May 11, 10 a.m., County Annex
 - H. ICSC Conference, May 21-24, Las Vegas
- VIII. Adjourn

Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group
Director Report
(April, 2006)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- 24 visits have been conducted with area businesses, with one more next week. A final report is being prepared for presentations in June and the ED Annual meeting on July 18.
- The Southside Business Group will meet April 24 to review the status of business development on the southside. A focus group conducted conference calls for updates on March 30 with each of three owners of major shopping developments on the southend.
- A BR&E “blitz” to visit downtown business took place for the 2nd year. About 20 visits were made in late March, early April by Jane Jones, Darlene Myers and Nancy Bowen.
- Working with three companies in Van Wert on building expansions to facilitate and assist with financing, including ABM who is currently closing on a ODOD loan.
- A new company, Trac Inc., is getting established in Van Wert. They have hired about 20 drivers but continue to recruit over the road drivers. There is a shortage in the region.

Entrepreneurship and Business Recruitment...

- Continue to work with Chris Chung, the State’s chief prospect lead developer, to provide information on sites in Van Wert for a large manufacturer looking in Ohio.
- 75 letters and packets went out to h.s. grads who received scholarships from the Van Wert Foundation. The grads are being introduced to resources, including the Innovation Center and WorkingEd.com, and being heartily welcomed back to Van Wert.
- An additional 20 letters and prospect packets (for a total of 40) are being mailed this week to distribution operations targeted for Van Wert by Whittaker Association. Nine followup calls were made this past month to initial 20 letters mailed in March.
- Planning to attend the ICSC (Retail) Conference in Las Vegas in May, in addition to two trade shows, the Plastics and Technology Trade Shows in Chicago in June.

Tourism and Main Street Redevelopment...

- CVB held interviews during the past month for a new CVB director. A new Director was chosen and will serve to promote Van Wert County as a good place to visit, with Performing Arts Center, historic locations, and excellent concerts and events.
- Presenting with Jane Jones at the annual Main Street Ohio Conference in Springfield, OH. on May 3. The presentation, “Do Something, Economic Restructuring Committees in Action” will highlight early and current actions being taken to get, and keep the ball rolling in the downtown area.

Planning and Administration...

- Participating with Greg Homan on Promotion & Tenure Committee for the OSU Extension West Region. We are reviewing nine candidates for promotion this year.
- Attended OSU’s two day Leadership Assessment Center in March to evaluate my leadership style and determine where improvements can be made.
- The Ft. Wayne Business Journal reported on Van Wert in a special edition in April.
- Participate on WorkingEd Committee to raise funds for a regional marketing campaign. The goal was \$20,000 and all but \$1,250 has been raised within four weeks.