



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

**September 15, 2006**

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**Woods Golf Club**

- I. Welcome— Kim Elick, President
- II. Information Associate Report – Darlene Myers
- III. Director Report-- Nancy Bowen
- IV. Standing Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee – Kim Elick
  - B. BR&E Committee – No Report
  - C. Business Recruitment Committee – No Report
  - D. Regional Partnerships Committee – Nancy Bowen
  - E. Agriculture Information Committee – Bill Evans
  - F. Host Committee – No Report
- 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. IEDC Annual Conference, New York City, September 17-20.
  - B. Entrepreneurship/Small Business Success Series @ Van Wert Innovation Center, 6-8 p.m. Sept. 26 & 28.
  - C. ABM's Open House of new facility, September 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
  - D. WSU/CAMP training planning meeting, 8:30 a.m., Oct. 5, Innovation Ctr.
  - E. OSU Outreach and Innovation Conference, Columbus, Oct. 8-10.
  - F. Ohio Economic Development Association Annual Conference, Columbus, Oct. 11-13.
- VIII. Adjourn

# *Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group*

## ***Director Report***

*(September, 2006)*

### ***Business Retention and Development:***

- Held meeting of the Technology Team at the Innovation Center to establish direction and priorities for technology-based business development in Van Wert.
- Planning two training programs, “From Idea to Commercialization” and “Increasing Odds for Success Using GO-BIG”, as part of the “Small Business Success Series” at the Innovation Center being held on Sept. 26 & 28 in coordination with ABM’s Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> open house of their new manufacturing facilities.
- Met with and assisted Life Star Rescue owners in the transfer of their business to Holman Enterprises, which will result in expansion and the creation of new jobs.
- Coordinating an industrial lean training planning session with WSU and CAMP on Oct. 5 at the Innovation Center.

### ***Business Recruitment...***

- Currently “working” two leads that evolved as a result of the Honda project including interest from a Honda supplier in Vision Industrial Park. Another is a large distribution operation looking at options for location in Van Wert. A fire insurance rating of class 6 or under is critical to this project. Van Wert is a class 4.
- Developed marketing packet with two-sided spec sheet of mega-site which was mailed to a list of 35 site selection consultants and automotive manufacturers.
- Coordinating with CIC, property owners, local and state government to work through short and long term issues related to maintaining “Honda site” as future mega-industrial site for a single large manufacturing end user that would have a major regional impact.
- Assisted the City and Poggemeyer to prepare application materials for submission of the mega-site for funding through the Job Ready Sites Program.

### ***Planning, Partnerships and Administration...***

- Participating on U.S. 30 Corridor planning group led by County Commissioners in an 8 county area. Conducted meeting of regional EDO’s to develop a marketing strategy.
- Contributed to development of a regional grant through the RGP for ESP funding to provide seed capital and support entrepreneurship and innovation in an 11 county area.
- Hosted Congressman Gillmor’s assistant, Ryan Walker at lunch meeting with community leaders and tour of Innovation Center.
- Organized meeting for National Development Council representatives Kevin Goldsmith and John Downs and Main Street representatives on August 2 to explore development opportunities in the downtown area.
- Preparing and giving presentations at two national conferences; one is a poster presentation on the Katrina response in the New Orleans region using a BR&E strategy, the other is a power point on the Economic Development process and program in Van Wert County.
- Requested to prepare two taped training modules for OSU CD Educators on business attraction and revolving loan funds.