



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**

**November 17, 2006
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
KAM Manufacturing**

- I. Welcome— Kim Elick, President
- II. Information Associate Report – Darlene Myers
- III. Director Report— Nancy Bowen
- IV. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee – No Report
 - B. BR&E Committee, Business Recruitment Committee, Regional Partnerships Committee – Nancy Bowen (year-end meetings)
 - C. Agriculture Information Committee – Bill Evans
 - D. Host Committee – Darlene Myers
- 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. Innovation Center to host group from Bluffton, OH., Tues., Nov. 21, 10:30.
 - B. Rhodes College Entrepreneurship Judging, Mon., Nov. 27 8-12.
 - C. Wright State University Women in Business Conf., Wed., Dec. 6, 9-2:30.
 - D. OSU Extension Annual Conference, Dec. 13-14, Columbus.
- VIII. Adjourn

Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group

Director Report

(November, 2006)

Business Retention and Development:

- Year end meeting review of results and planning for next year scheduled Dec. 5 10:30 @ City Council Chambers.
- Technology workshops were held at the Innovation Center included “From Idea to Commercialization” and “Increasing Odds for Success Using GO-BIG”.
- Six Sigma Lean training coordinated with WSU and CAMP took place yesterday at WSU for area manufacturers.
- Held meetings with Judy Cowan in October with Eaton and Federal Mogul to provide new information on assistance at the regional level, and through WSU and Rhodes.

Business Recruitment...

- Year end meeting review of results and planning for next year scheduled Dec. 12 10:30 @ City Council Chambers.
- A customized mailer was mailed and follow-up calls made to Toyota based on news they will be looking for a location. A meeting has been requested with Toyota’s Government Relations representatives in Cincinnati per referral by ODOD this week.
- Coordinated with area business and City on potential move to Vision Industrial Park.
- Three leads, two manufacturing and one distribution-related, have been responded to within the past four weeks through ODOD and AEP’s Procure lead system.
- A plastic injection molding company visited Van Wert last week to tour a building for a possible location. They would create 12 jobs.
- Coordinate communications with property owners, CIC and ODOD to develop long term option agreements to secure the mega-industrial site for a future manufacturing end user.

Planning, Partnerships and Administration...

- Healthy Lifestyles Initiative, a cross-programmatic effort begun by OSU Extension office involves a steering committee of top employers and fitness service providers to educate and involve the community in becoming more health conscious.
- Attended Annual IEDC Conference in New York and completed two-day advanced Real Estate Finance course.
- Attended Ohio Economic Development Association meeting in Columbus with contingency from NW Ohio.
- Gave presentation on Katrina project at OSU Outreach Conference at the Renaissance Columbus in October.
- Planned and held annual ED Advisory Group Retreat at Hospital in October. Reports were e-mailed out to group.
- Participated in Chamber of Commerce Small Business Week activities.
- Participated in presentation for JRS site grant in October.
- Invited to present on the Honda experience at the National Association of Community Economic Development Professionals next spring.
- Developed and taped four modules for OSU Extension to be used for distance learning opportunities on topics including RLF’s, CRA’s, Business Attraction and Planning.