



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**

**January 19, 2007
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers**

- 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 – Planning Meeting 2/6/07 10 a.m.
 - C. Business Recruitment - 2006 Final Report online
 - D. Agriculture Information Committee
 - E. Host Committee
- V. Partnership Organization Reports
 - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Jon Rhoades
 - B. Innovation Center – Gary Corcoran or Dee Whitcraft
 - C. Revolving Loan Funds – Darlene Myers
 - D. Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce – Kate Gribble
 - E. Main Street Van Wert - Jane Jones
 - F. Convention Visitors Bureau – Larry Lee
 - G. Port Authority – Bill Evans
- VI. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VII. Information and Upcoming Events
 - A. Chamber Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony, Jan. 25, Jehmms
 - B. ICSC Midwest Idea Exchange, Feb. 6-7, Chicago
 - C. New Year, New You Kickoff, Saturday, Jan. 17, 8:30 – noon, Vantage
 - D. IEDC BR&E Volunteer, Feb. 12-16, New Orleans
 - E. TEAM Ohio Meeting, Feb. 20, Columbus
 - F. CIC Annual Meeting, Feb. 21, 9-11 a.m., City Council Chambers
- VIII. Adjourn

Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group
Director Report
(January, 2007)

Business Retention and Development:

- 2006 Year-end BR&E report posted on our web site at www.vanwertcounty-edg.com. BR&E Committee meeting scheduled February 6 at 10 a.m. in the City Board Room to prepare 2007 program.
- Southside District Business meeting was held on January 16 to review sales and leakage trends and to talk about ideas for new or expanded businesses on the southend.
- Met and assisted three startup businesses – one is considering locating in the Innovation Center. All three are planning to apply for loans through the City/County RLF Funds.
- Coordinated with local manufacturers on tour for County Commissioners Days in August.

Business Recruitment...

- Year-end Recruitment report is posted on web site and has been distributed to County Commissioners and City Council.
- A lead continues to develop with another large automotive-related manufacturing company. Currently, the ODOD is in a holding pattern on the project.
- Alternative energy component manufacturer working through site selection consultant is considering one of 28 communities in Ohio.
- Two meetings held with representative of potential Ethanol project working on a project in Wyandot and also considering Van Wert County.
- Two leads qualified as interested by through the WALT lead system are being followed up on with calls and customized packets.
- Continuing to work with area construction related company on move to Vision Industrial Park. The company will establish a temporary location to keep up with demand.
- An option agreement has been finalized for the mega-site and 85% of property owners have signed the options. The goal is to have 100% signed by the end of January.

Planning, Partnerships and Administration...

- New Year, New You, a healthy lifestyles initiative, continues to progress with a kickoff planned on February 17th with a walk, booths and a keynote speaker, Pam Smith. Teams are being formed with lists due into the OSU Extension office by February 5.
- Completed revisions for USDA on grant application for \$70,000 to fund renovations for the Innovation Center. Final application was mailed to the Findlay office this week.
- Held OSU Extension Advisory meeting in January to install new officers, orient new advisory members and coordinate plans for 2007.
- Prepared power point and presenting 3 hour Leadership program on Economic Development this afternoon.
- Prepared annual United Reporting System report for OSU to update on professional and teaching activities for 2006.
- Wrote article on the Innovation Center for OSU Extension publication submitted in Jan.
- Presented Economic Development Report for the Van Wert Service Club in January.
- Completed Bimonthly newsletter.