



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 16, 2007

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Convoy Care Center

- I. Welcome— Kim Elick, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committees
 - A. Executive Committee – No Meeting
 - B. BR&E Committee – BRE visits being scheduled in April
 - C. Business Recruitment Committee – No Meeting
 - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
 - E. Regional Partnerships – Nancy Bowen (mtg. scheduled 3/28 @ 1:30)
 - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Ryan Adam
- IV. Partnership Organization Reports
 - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Don Farmer
 - B. Innovation Center – Dee Whitcraft
 - C. Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce – Kate Gribble
 - D. Main Street Van Wert - Jane Jones
 - E. Convention Visitors Bureau – Larry Lee
 - F. Port Authority – Bill Evans
- V. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VI. Information and Upcoming Events
 - A. Gala Weekend, April 16-18 @ The Niswonger Performing Arts Center
 - B. TEAM Ohio International Trade Reception, March 22, Columbus
 - C. OEDA/EODA (state ED Orgs) Legislative Forum @ Salt Fork
 - D. NACDEP (National Assoc. of Community Development Extension Professionals) Annual Conference, April 16-18, Philadelphia, PA.
- VII. Adjourn

Director Report

(February – March 2007)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- Postcards were mailed this week to 700+ businesses inviting them to complete the annual BRE (business retention & expansion) survey posted on our web site at www.vanwertcounty-edg.com. The survey has been added to this year with questions related to the airport and several other revisions. Visits will take place in April.
- Assisting a local plant manager who is running a small machine shop to prepare for an RLF loan that would help him purchase and grow the business in Van Wert.
- A local company is considering an expansion that would require a new building. They are currently considering options and will solidify plans soon.

Business Recruitment...

- Coordinated meeting with Kriegel Corporation, Mark Miller, County Commissioners and City officials, to tour the Kennedy Building on Sycamore, and meet about potential business development activities at the site.
- Continue to work with an investment group planning a possible ethanol facility in Van Wert County. They are currently working on two others, in Wyandot Co. and Indiana.
- Working with an Indiana company referred by Life Star Rescue. They are interested in being part of the emergency industry “cluster” and would bring about 5 jobs initially.
- Welcomed new business, M3G Recruiting, into the Innovation Center. Met with another, a father/son computer repair business, interested in the Center.
- Began communications with an aluminum recycler considering a location in Van Wert. The company is requesting information on buildings, sites and financial incentives. Site visit will be scheduled soon, and the Recruitment Committee will become involved.

Planning and Administration...

- THANK YOU to the City of Delphos for offering financial support towards economic development efforts in Van Wert County. Since half of Delphos is in Van Wert and half is in Allen, they expect to support both counties. We appreciate it!!
- Participated in Quarterly Regional Extension CD meeting in Wood County this month.
- Attended U.S. 30 Corridor meeting in Kenton this week. Burgess & Niple are preparing a plan for the corridor with funds collected from all eight participating counties.
- Participating on Tour Committee to pull together industrial tours for the August 14-15 County Commissioner Days being held in Van Wert.
- The Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) held its’ annual meeting on February 21 to install new officers. The decades old organization is busier than ever before with primary projects including development of the mega-site and Innovation Center.
- The ED Office (Darlene and I) will be facilitating the Van Wert County Port Authority’s annual planning meeting March 19 to re-evaluate goals and determine new directions.
- Served as a judge for Les Finley’s Rhodes State College Entrepreneurship Class. Four business plans were presented. One, a teens fitness club, may compete at the state level.
- Serve on Steering Committee for New Year, New You for a Healthy Van Wert County. The program was launched on February 16 with a very successful kickoff, 116 teams and 936 people involved. Eaton, Central and the Hospital are sponsors.
- Served as volunteer in southern Louisiana to assist businesses with applications for loans and grants through the City of New Orleans. Held one-on-one and group meetings with businesses throughout the week of February 12th.