



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

August 17, 2007

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Ohio City Community Building

- I. Welcome— Nancy Bowen, Director
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committees
 - A. Executive Committee – Meeting August 28, 8:30 a.m. @ City
 - B. BR&E Committee – Wrap-up meeting held on June 5
 - C. Business Recruitment Committee – Hosted prospect visits
 - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
 - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor Meetings – Meeting August 22
 - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Ryan Adam
- IV. Partnership Organization Reports
 - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Don Farmer
 - B. Innovation Center – Gary Corcoran & 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. County Commissioners Days concluded August 14-15. Planning Committee members Carol Trice, Andy Kleinschmidt, Greg Homan, Darlene Myers, Carol Bunn and Dr. Stephen Wright, put on a very successful event, the first ever CC Days in Van Wert County.
 - B. TEAM Ohio Monthly Meeting at RGP in Toledo, Tuesday, August 21.
 - C. U.S. 30 Corridor Meeting, August 22 in Lima.
 - D. Wright State University Regional Summit, Wednesday August 29 at WSU.
 - E. Lt. Gov. Fisher's Trade Mission to Japan (Tokyo, Osaka) September 7-14
 - F. OEDA Annual Summit, October 10-12 @ Lewis Center
- VII. Adjourn

Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group

Director Report

(June – August 2007)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- BRE Final Report given at Annual Dinner on June 27. Wrap-up meeting held on June 5. Results and report available online.
- Facilitated meetings with Toledo Molding & Die in June and July to assist with consolidation of Plant #1 and #2 resulting in displaced employees from closure of Plant #1. Plant #2 will be able to accommodate about 1/3 of the workers.
- Met with new owners of Kennedy Mfg. to tour plant and talk about future plans, including plans for increased automation and other efficiency improvements.
- Assisted the Chamber, Main Street and CVB to conduct meetings with businesses affected by the Washington Street construction, also attended by Jay Fleming.
- Held meetings with Equity representatives, including owner, Steve Walthen, and City/County and Chamber officials to discuss progress at Towne Center. Equity is committed to having a representative in Van Wert twice per week to market site to new tenants with a hotel and restaurants at the top of the list.

Business Recruitment...

- Conducted meetings with three startup companies interested in the Innovation Center, the owners of which are all currently located in Indiana.
- Assisted Jeff Cook, owner of Wildfire Mfg., and with help from others (Gary Corcoran, Dee Whitcraft and Tom Alexander) to move Wildfire Mfg. to its' new home in the Innovation Center. The company has already hired two and was located in Auburn, IN.
- Conducted numerous meetings over summer with property owners, utilities and state and local government officials, to assist Van Wert Energy in their effort to establish an ethanol plant in Van Wert. The project continues to move forward positively.
- Welcomed new business, Ultra Computer & Networking Solutions, into the Innovation Center. The father/son computer repair business is leasing about 175 sq. ft. that had been built out/customized for them.
- Alexin, an aluminum recycler had narrowed their site search to Van Wert and Bluffton, IN. in June. They chose to locate in Indiana for two reasons: freight costs (site is closer to market) and natural gas prices.

Planning and Administration...

- Worked with CIC President Jon Rhoades, Atty. Koch and realtors to secure 2nd mega-site for single, large manufacturing end-user that would create many jobs. 100% of site has now been optioned for 10 years. We will be reapplying for grant funds through JRS.
- Working with State officials on plans to attend trade mission to Japan. Will visit Tokyo and Osaka and meet with Honda, Toyota and others to market Van Wert's 2nd mega-site. Lt. Gov. Fisher is leading the mission with 40-50 attending from all over the state.
- Participated on Tour Committee for CC Days to organize an Industrial Tour of local industry. The "sold out" tour visited three growing, family owned businesses; KAM Mfg., Braun Industries and Cooper Foods. The tour was very well received.
- Presented a session on the New Year, New You Initiative at the CC Days event.