



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

December 14, 2007  
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Van Wert County Historical Museum

- I. Welcome— Jim Grant, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
  - A. Executive Committee
  - B. BR&E Committee – Planning mtg. rescheduled Jan. 8 @ 10 a.m.
  - C. Business Recruitment Committee – 2007 Annual Report release Jan. 3
  - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
  - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor – Jan. Meeting TBA
  - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Ryan Adam
- IV. Partnership Organization Reports
  - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Jon Rhoades
  - B. Innovation Center – Gary Corcoran and 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
  - G. Airport Authority – Jim Nelson
- V. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VI. Information and Upcoming Events
  - A. Ohio Department of Development Strategic R&E Work Group meeting in Columbus, Dec. 19.
  - B. BRE Planning Mtg. with Greg Davis (OSU Extension Specialist) in City Council Bd. Rm., Jan. 8 @ 10 a.m. (Note: Change in date)
  - C. ODOT Strategic Plan Followup Mtg. @ ONU in Bowling Green, Jan. 9
  - D. Regional Planning Commission Annual Mtg., Jan. 15
  - E. Center for Automotive Research Quarterly Mtg. @ General Motors Headquarters in Detroit, Jan. 16.
- VII. Adjourn

# *Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group*

## ***Director Report***

*(November – December 2007)*

### ***Business Retention and Expansion...***

- BRE planning meeting pushed to January 8<sup>th</sup> to accommodate OSU Extension Specialist, Greg Davis, who will shed light on changes in the program on the state level.
- Participating in ODOD BRE workgroup to assist with efforts in improving retention and expansion efforts statewide. Meeting planned on December 19<sup>th</sup> in Columbus.
- Wright State's Jon Heffner has worked with Gary Corcoran, Innovation Center co-manager, to plan workshops on understanding business financials. Three workshops will be held at the Innovation Center in January.
- Helped to coordinate meeting held at C.A.P.T. in Celina for manufacturers throughout the region to develop shared tool to collect wage and benefit data. Of the five companies attending on Nov. 21, three were from Van Wert – Teleflex, Braun and Federal Mogul.
- Provided information on properties and incentives to two local companies, a manufacturing and service, considering expanding operations.
- Organizing annual Southside meeting in January for retailers and businesses located in the Shannon Street or Westwood Drive business district. The meeting will highlight changes from the previous year and expectations for the year to come.

### ***Business Recruitment and Site Development...***

- Coordinated meeting on rail improvements for Van Wert Super Site with representatives of Rail America, Poggemeyer, who is handling JRS application, and ethanol project.
- Participated in tour of the Andersons 100 million gallon ethanol plant in Logansport, IN. with a group from Van Wert. The plant began operations in May, 2007.
- Prospect visit planned for plastics extruding company looking for 70,000 sq. ft. was postponed from December 11 to mid-January. The company would hire about 100 workers and is looking at several locations throughout the region.
- Participating in the Automotive Communities Program (ACP). ACP is a community-industry partnership that links the major traditional centers of automotive activity to each other and to companies and communities to increase the likelihood of regional automotive renewal. We are also interested from the perspective of company locations.

### ***Planning and Administration...***

- Thanks to the Van Wert County Foundation, we are partnering with the Chamber to hire an intern for four weeks to assist in creating a prospect database and mailing that will target specific companies in four value-added industry groups: 1) Food processing, pharmaceutical, alternative energy, 2) Polymers, plastics and rubber, 3) Automotive parts and machinery manufacturing and 4) Distribution.
- Working on submittal of first drawdown from the USDA grant approved last year that will assist with renovations to the Innovation Center on Fox. Rd.
- Attended the annual OSU Extension Conference at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark this past Wed. and Thurs. Participated in two sessions on economic development.
- Attended Main Street Van Wert Award Ceremony in Columbus on December 13<sup>th</sup> to recognize our program as one of the best in the state. Congratulations Jane and Gayla!