



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 16, 2007
8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Central Insurance Companies**

- I. Welcome— Jim Grant, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
 - A. Executive Committee
 - B. BR&E Committee – Planning mtg. Dec. 5 10 a.m.
 - C. Business Recruitment Committee – No meeting
 - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
 - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor – No meeting
 - 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
- V. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VI. Information and Upcoming Events
 - A. Ohio Department of Development Strategic Planning Session, Nov. 28.
 - B. TEAM Ohio meeting and Christmas lunch, Dec. 11
 - C. OSU Extension Annual Conference, Cherry Valley Lodge, Dec. 12-13.
 - D. Van Wert Chamber Strategic Planning Session, Dec. 13.
- VII. Tour of Central Insurance Companies New Headquarters
- VIII. Adjourn

Director Report

(October -November 2007)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- Participated in BRE planning meetings in Delphos with Greg Davis, OSU State CD Leader, to assist Delphos in establishing their own BRE initiative.
- Assisted new business locating in Convoy with startup issues.
- Coordinated meetings with Equity and ABM consultant on odor concern at north end.
- Contacted local manufacturers inviting them to a meeting next week with C.A.P.T. concerning workforce development and retention strategies.
- Met with two local manufacturers-Kennedy and TMD-on financing and training needs.
- Participated in Wildfire, Mfg. Grand opening.
- Attended tenant meeting at Innovation Center.

Business Recruitment and Site Development...

- Reception sponsor for a CoreNet Global, an association for corporate real estate and workforce executives serving leading multinational companies, in Atlanta, Oct. 28.
- Coordinated a Super Site meeting with utility reps, local CIC, City, County and Port Authority representatives and state ODOD to work through information needed and potential barriers in preparation for JRS application for round 2, in January.
- Hosted four prospect visits Sept.-Nov., a pallet manufacturer, packaged food processor and a polymer company, who are interested in existing space in northwest Ohio. The third project is a new cabinet assembly company, a potential incubator tenant.
- Made eight prospect followup contacts (e-mail and phone) during last eight weeks on projects that have good potential for moving forward in the next 6-12 months.
- Continue to meet with Van Wert Energy on potential ethanol project.
- Coordinated two meetings with a developer on potential commercial project.

Planning and Administration...

- Wrote and submitted three small grant applications in Sept, Oct. Nov. One has been approved through AEP for \$5,000 to assist with marketing materials used for Japan trip.
- Prepared for and hosted monitor visit by Mary Oakley of OHCP on Sept. 26 on Towne Center and Plastics Recycling Technologies CBDG projects.
- Presented at VW Chamber Emerging Professionals Lunch on Sept. 27.
- Participated in WSU strategic planning focus group meeting on Oct. 4
- Participated in post-Japan trip meeting in Columbus Oct. 9.
- Attended OEDA Annual Summit on Oct. 10-11 in Columbus.
- Attended Central Dedication ceremony on Oct. 12.
- Presented/participated in Girl Scout Career event on Oct. 13 in Lima.
- Attended Vantage Career Center Advisory meeting on Oct. 18.
- Held annual ED Advisory Group retreat at Lutheran church in Convoy.
- Hosted OSU research team conducting interviews of area retailers on Oct. 22
- Hosted Chamber After Hours at the Innovation Center on Oct. 23.
- Hosted ED Director from Fostoria on Oct. 26.
- Attended Region Three Advisory Board meeting Nov. 2. Mark Barbash, Director of ODOD, presented staff changes, new programs and JRS timeline.