



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

February 15, 2008  
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Braun Industries

- I. Welcome— Jim Grant, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
  - A. Executive Committee – No Report
  - B. BR&E Committee – Preparing for Company Visits
  - C. Business Recruitment Committee – No Report
  - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
  - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor – Meeting March 6, 9:30 a.m.
  - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Ryan Adam
- IV. Partnership Organization Reports
  - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Jon Rhoades
  - 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
  - G. Airport Authority – Jim Nelson
- V. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VI. Information and Upcoming Events
  - A. Financing Forum including new Rocket Venture and Rapid Response programs @ Willow Bend, 10-11:45, February 26
  - B. Ohio Economic Development Assoc. (OEDA) Board Meeting, March 11, Amp Ohio, Columbus
  - C. Elected Officials and Volunteer Leadership Summit @ Vantage Career Center, 5 – 7:30, March 20
  - D. OEDA Basic Economic Development Course, April 16-18, Holiday Inn Worthington
  - E. Economic Development Advisory Group Meeting, 8-9 a.m., March 14, Wee Care Day Care

# *Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group*

## ***Director Report***

*(January – February 2008)*

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

- Survey for manufacturers has been revised by BRE sub-committee, including Kate Gribble, and is being mailed this week in Chamber's monthly packet and e-mailed through the EDO. Visits will take place beginning as early as next week.
- Conducted meeting of Main Street ED Restructuring Committee on January 28 to assist Jane Jones in planning for downtown retention and recruitment activities.
- Assisting retail business with plans to relocate and expand within Van Wert.
- Coordinating Financing Forum for existing business to take advantage of new financing opportunities including Rocket Ventures, a public/private venture capital fund for technology-based business and Rapid Response, a program to avert job loss.

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

- Submitted sites or buildings for three interesting state leads in past month. The latest, received this week, is Project Direct, a wind turbine project that would create 600 jobs and represent an investment of \$1.2 million in equipment. The other two include an automotive supplier and plastic sheets made of polystyrene.
- Several leads developed and being worked from prospect mailing in January. One lead is Kajima, one of the largest construction firms in Japan. The company also provides site selection services for clients and is considering a site visit to Van Wert.
- Provided detailed information on the super site to ODOD for an unsolicited proposal they are putting together on sites greater than 1000 acres in size. The proposal will target OEMs that may be considering a significant American investment in the near future.
- The JRS grant application, completed by Poggemeyer, was submitted to ODOD before deadline on Feb. 8 requesting the maximum grant of \$5 million for infrastructure improvements for the super site.
- Met with three firms interested in the Innovation Center, a gymnastics academy, home health service and sign business, two of which could locate in the Center by May.

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

- Participated in OSU Community Development Retreat January 30-31 in Columbus. Identified programmatic collaborations, new evaluation methods and best practices.
- Working on Committee to deliver OEDA Basic Economic Development Course being held April 16-18 in Worthington. Providing course material for case study on Honda.
- Assisting in the extension of CRA boundaries for inclusion of residential and commercial areas within incorporated Van Wert.
- Submitted reimbursement for \$20,000 through the USDA Rural Enterprise Grant for the Innovation Center.
- Attended International Economic Development Leadership Summit as Committee member and exam grader from Feb. 3-5 in Orlando.
- Attended WSU Business Enterprise Center Advisory Meeting on Feb. 6.
- Participated in "exit" meeting on the Wildfire relocation facilitated by Carol Trice of OSU Extension. Resulted in recommendations for management of incubator tenants.
- Participated in Main Street's annual review by Heritage Ohio this week. A satisfactory review is required for maintenance of Certified Main Street status.
- Assisted in fund raising by contacting companies and sending promotional materials for CVB's annual Rib Cookoff being held at the Fairgrounds on August 9<sup>th</sup>.