



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

January 18, 2008

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Van Wert Municipal Building, City Council Chambers

- I. Welcome— Jim Grant, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
  - A. Executive Committee – No Report
  - B. BR&E Committee – Planning mtg. was held Jan. 8 @ 10 a.m.
  - C. Business Recruitment Committee – Annual Report Release TBA
  - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
  - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor – Draft Hwy. 30 Corridor Report available for review
  - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Ryan Adam
- IV. Partnership Organization Reports
  - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Jon Rhoades
  - B. Innovation Center – Gary Corcoran or 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. Million Dollar Marketing by Barbara Wold @ Elks Lodge, 8-10:30 a.m., January 22
  - B. Van Wert Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner @ Jehmms, Jan. 22
  - C. Ohio Area 8 Workforce Investment Board Mtg., @ Auglaize Co., Jan. 24
  - D. OSU Extension CD Retreat @ OSU Campus, Jan. 30-31
  - E. IEDC Leadership Summit @ Orlando, FL., Feb 3-5
  - F. Management by the Numbers by Jon Heffner @ Vantage, 6-8:30 p.m., Feb. 5,12, 19
  - G. WSU Business Enterprise Center Mtg. @ WSU Campus, Feb. 6

# *Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group*

## ***Director Report***

*(December – January 2008)*

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

- Annual BRE planning meeting held on Jan. 8 with Greg Davis and all but three committee members present. Surveys and meetings will be divided by sector beginning with manufacturing during the first quarter. Surveys planned to go out by Feb. 1.
- Attended meeting coordinated by Pat Ryan with Crown Equipment and with Jon Rhoades and Kim Elick to discuss potential spinoff or expansion opportunities.
- Participated in recent efforts to attempt to retain Wildfire Mfg., who located to the Innovation Center in August, in Van Wert. Being undercapitalized and with a lack of sales, Jeff Cook has since decided to move his business back to Auburn, IN.
- Local company working with Jerry Good to take advantage of state financing assistance to assist with expansion and operating needs.

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

- Responded to three leads developed through the state's Procure lead system.
- Attended Automotive Community Program (ACP) meeting at Auto Show in Detroit. ACP is a community-industry partnership that meets quarterly to build relationships and monitor automotive industry trends. As a member community, Van Wert County can tap into research and intelligence that can assist in attracting investment.
- Assisting in coordinating JRS grant application through Poggemeyer for the Super Site.
- Followed up with five contacts during last four weeks that have good potential for moving forward in the next 6-12 months.
- Coordinated two meetings with a developer on potential commercial project.
- Contacted by two prospective new businesses interested in the Innovation Center, a furniture refurbishing and cabinet making business and a gymnastics academy.

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

- Participating in ODOD R&E Workgroup to identify best practices and develop a consistent method for collecting data, responding to needs and reporting results.
- Assisted in preparation of and participated in Senator Sherrod Brown's roundtable discussion in Van Wert on January 4.
- Coordinating with Regional Planning and Commissioners on process for public input, release and reporting to community of completed Comprehensive Plan.
- Hosted intern, Sarah Muse, who, over past month, handled to two major prospect databases, manufacturing and retail, and a mailing to 3,000 businesses.
- Assisting in developing case study on Honda project for Basic Economic Development Course offered by OEDA (Ohio Economic Development Association).
- Completed URS report (annual performance measurement report) for OSU Extension.
- Co-authored proposal for presentation at national economic development conference.
- Completed Junior Achievement consulting for St. Mary's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- Speaker at Annual Regional Planning Commission meeting Jan. 15.
- Speaker at January Optimist club meeting.