



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

April 25, 2008
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Main Street Ice Cream Parlor

- I. Welcome— Jim Grant, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
 - A. Executive Committee – No Report
 - B. BR&E Committee – Manufacturing Visits Completed
 - C. Business Recruitment Committee – No Meeting or Visit Scheduled
 - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
 - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor – Meeting held in Van Wert 4/16
 - 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. ED Roundtable by Congressman Bob Latta in Toledo, today from 10-12
 - B. Chamber Business After Hours today from 5-7 @ Jehmms
 - C. Downtown Businesses BRE Blitz Week April 28 – May 2
 - D. Internet Visibility Workshop by Chamber, May 6 from 7:30 – 9:30 @ Willow Bend
 - E. Manufacturing Roundtable on Skillstrac and training programs, May 7th @ Willow Bend from 7:30-9:00.

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Director Report

(February – March 2008)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- Visits to manufacturers completed included Eaton, Cooper, Kennedy, Grief, Eisenhower, ND&T, Bunge, Universal Lettering, Tecumseh, Kennedy and Federal Mogul. Summary report will be produced and e-mailed to BRE Committee for review before next meeting.
- Staying abreast of situation with Kongsberg Automotive. Meeting planned with state, regional partners to assist union workers in exploring options for retraining and job search assistance. No plans currently by either company or union in resuming talks.
- Attended tour of Mike Schumm's swine barn with County Commissioners in March.

Business Recruitment and Site Development...

- Prepared proposal for regional ag-related company looking at expansion into Van Wert County. Anticipating meeting/visit with company in next few weeks.
- Assisted Delphos with proposal for potential new ag-related company that would hire 50 people and invest at least \$50 million in a facility and equipment.
- Assisted in preparing mailer with Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce to a list of 100 retailers that would be a good fit for Van Wert.
- Followed up with phone calls to 7 manufacturing prospects that responded to mailer sent earlier this year.

Planning and Administration...

- Hosted U.S. 30 Corridor regional meeting at the Van Wert County Foundation on April 16th. Meeting was open to members of the Regional Partnerships Committee. Invited Rob Young and John Sampson from Indiana to the meeting.
- Co-hosted Leadership Summit at Vantage Career Center which was attended by 22 elected officials and community leaders. The summit will be held annually to provide an orientation on community economic development groups and their roles.
- Assisting Poggemeyer and City in preparing JRS grant application for super site. Applying for maximum grant amount of \$5 million.
- Received grant reimbursement of almost \$15,000 from USDA for facility improvements to the Innovation Center.
- Presented the "Honda story" at the Ohio Basic Economic Development Course last week. Class teams designed presentations to similar potential companies.