



VAN WERT COUNTY • OHIO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Where The Strength Of Our People Provides Opportunity For The Future

**Van Wert County OSU Extension
Economic Development Advisory Group
Agenda**

**May 16, 2008
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Van Wert Distribution Center**

- I. Welcome— Jim Grant, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
 - A. Executive Committee – No Report
 - B. BR&E Committee – Draft BRE Report Distributed to Committee
 - C. Business Recruitment Committee – No Meeting
 - D. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
 - E. Regional Partnerships/Hwy. 30 Corridor – Next meeting in July
 - F. Agriculture Information Committee – Ryan Adam and Bill Evans
- IV. Partnership 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. TEAM Ohio Mtg. @ Great Wolf Lodge, May 20th from 8:30 - 1:00.
 - B. Lead & Succeed Seminar by Michael Angelo Caruso @ Marsh Foundation Auditorium, May 21st from 1:15-4:15.
 - C. One Wonderful Weekend, Downtown Van Wert, June 6-8, and Concert in the Park Series begins
 - D. Wright State University Groundbreaking, May 18th
 - E. Next ED Advisory Meeting @ Wassenberg Art Center, June 20th @ 8 a.m.
 - F. ED Advisory Group Annual Dinner September 16th @ Willow Bend

Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group

Director Report

(April– May 2008)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- 15 companies in the manufacturing sector were surveyed and visited in February, March and April, 2008. BRE team members visited the following businesses: Eaton, Cooper, KAM, Braun, Kennedy, Eisenhauer, Bunge, Grief, Eisenhauer, National Door & Trim, Life Star Rescue, Universal Lettering, Tecumseh, Kennedy and Federal Mogul. A draft BRE summary report was completed and sent to the committee for review this week.
- In addition, Kongsberg Automotive and KAM Manufacturing have been visited and/or contacted numerous times over the past several weeks to keep current on their separate situations and plan for assistance as needed, including coordinating development of a labor-management committee to oversee the transition of displaced Kongsberg workers.
- Follow up on several issues related to manufacturing BRE visits, including meeting with Federal Mogul and ODOD on modernization plans, which took place this past week.
- Met with two startups and one expanding retail business on financing options. Assisted new business, Flip-Tuck Gymnastics at Innovation Center, with Open House on May 10. 70 kids signed up with registration continuing for summer classes beginning June 2.
- Mailing survey to retailers end of May to prepare for BRE visits in June, July, August.

Business Recruitment and Site Development...

- Contacted by food processing company looking for 15 acre sites in northwest Ohio. Submitted proposal for acreage in Vision Park last week.
- Submitted County Airport for potential project looking for hangar space and acreage to rehab and service planes. Faxed specifications to Airport Mgr. which include 5,000 foot runway, supporting need for same in Van Wert.
- New tax credit of up to \$2,400 available for hires that are residents of Paulding or Van Wert is being marketed and is expected to be an effective incentive in retaining existing or attracting new companies.
- Mailing to over 100 retail prospects was prepared this week by the Council on Aging. The mailing includes a letter, information on buildings and centers, including downtown, and a summary sheet of market information and incentives including the CRA.

Planning and Administration...

- Attended meeting and reception in Findlay to interface with Managing Directors for ODOD of 5 of the 14 ODOD International offices located in China, Japan, Singapore Belgium and Israel. New Managing Directors for Japan were knowledgeable about Super Site and talked about its' potential for location of an assembly plant.
- Coordinated meeting with representatives of major employers and Sunset Inn owners to provide input to owners on redevelopment options for that site.
- Applied for County Foundation Grant to hire an intern this summer to promote Van Wert County. The intern would enhance the web site with downloadable forms write stories on company expansions and BRE "good news" and assist in developing a media kit.
- Assisted Poggemeyer and City in completing Job Ready Sites application for grant assistance through the ODOD for super site. Application submitted to the District office for review yesterday. Applying for \$5 million.
- Participated on Student Panel to judge senior projects at VWCS.