

The OSU Extension Van Wert County Economic Development Advisory Group Committee List

As a member of the Van Wert County Economic Development Advisory Group, you are required to participate on one of the committees listed below. With 50+ members, we need you to be active on only one committee, so please pick the one that best fits your background, expertise and interest. Committees and descriptions are listed below:

1. **Communications Committee:** To promote increased population and/or investment of current residents in county. To promote growth of county through promotion of low cost and excellent quality of life. To be proactive instead of reactive on ED news stories on regional basis.
2. **Business Retention & Expansion Committee (BR&E):** This committee formally meets typically twice per year to review and develop procedures for surveying and visiting Van Wert area businesses, and then to review results from the BR&E process including recommendations for actions, follow-up and implementation. The committee is most active from February-May during which time committee members are called upon to participate on visits with area businesses. If you choose this committee, please plan on participating on visits. Information from visits is strictly confidential.
3. **Business Recruitment Committee:** This committee meets annually to develop a recruitment strategy to attract new businesses to the area. The committee members are also called upon to “work” lists or other lead information to develop prospective businesses. Some members are needed periodically to meet with prospective new businesses who visit Van Wert County (members are targeted based on business background, position in the community, etc.). Confidentiality is VERY important.
4. **Host Committee:** This committee meets periodically to select locations for ED Advisory Group meetings and plan the Annual Dinner. The committee is strategic in terms of where meetings are held in order to make sure that the ED Advisory Group is representing the entire County. The Annual Dinner has become a significant event that attracted 120 persons in 2004, 144 in 2005 and 150 in 2008, continuing to grow as a mechanism to communicate to stakeholders and to the public.
5. **Agriculture Information Committee:** This committee is being formed to collect information, report on and possibly be involved in the recruiting or retention or agriculture-related projects in Van Wert County. The committee will meet as needed and report back to the ED Advisory Group. Projects of interest could include alternative energy, livestock and/or grain or other value-added projects that involve exporting or new technologies. Committee members should have some expertise in agriculture.
6. **Regional Partnerships Committee:** This committee will explore regional partnerships as a rural economic development strategy. The committee will meet as needed to identify regional players and strategies for developing or strengthening regional partnerships. Current projects that involve a regional approach include the Van Wert Innovation Center (small business incubator) and Working Ed, a regional workforce website. The committee may develop or tie-in to other initiatives to strengthen our regional position.