



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**

**January 16, 2010
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers**

- I. Welcome— Julie Miller, President
- II. Director Report - Nancy Bowen
- III. Standing Committee Updates
 - A. Executive Committee – Meeting February 1, 9:30 a.m. @ City
 - B. Revolving Loan Committee - Darlene Myers
 - C. BR&E Committee – Workshop held 1/12/10
 - D. Recruitment Committee – No scheduled meeting
 - E. Regional Partnerships Committee – Marketing group obtaining 501c3
 - F. Communications Committee – Hosting All-Groups Luncheon at Vantage
- IV. Partnership Reports
 - A. Community Improvement Corporation – Jon Rhoades, President
 - B. Business Development Corporation – Bernie Nieman, Board Member
 - C. Innovation Center – Gary Corcoran, Co-Manager
 - D. Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce – Kate Gribble, President
 - E. Main Street Van Wert – Seth Baker, President
 - F. Convention Visitors Bureau – Larry Lee, Executive Director
 - G. Port Authority – Bill Evans, Trustee
 - H. Airport Authority – Jim Nelson, Board Member
- V. Stakeholder Reports—Advisory Group Members
- VI. Information and Upcoming Events
 - A. OSU Extension BRE Workshop 1/12/2010 @ Central Ins.
 - B. Meeting with Region 3 on BRE Curriculum 1/15 @ Lima
 - C. RPC Annual Mtg. 1/19 @ Vantage Cup & Saucer
 - D. IEDC Venture Capital Finance Course 1/21 @ AEDG 1/21
 - E. Chamber Strategic Planning Mtg. 1/25
 - F. Buehrer Town Hall Mtg. 1/28 @ City Council Chambers
 - G. Chamber Annual Dinner 1/28 @ Willow Bend
 - H. 2nd Annual Entrepreneurship Fair 2/6 @ Vantage

Van Wert Economic Development Advisory Group

Director Report

(December – January 2009)

Business Retention and Expansion...

- Newly revamped OSU BRE program just completed and being rolled out this year. Planning meeting took place with decisions made to send survey links via e-mail in addition to company visits. Coordinated visits will take place between Feb-April.
- Coordinating with ODOD and CIC on expansion efforts for local company planning to add about 100 jobs and invest over \$10 million in equipment and added building capacity. An announcement to be made soon.
- Met with two existing businesses on small expansions that may necessitate funding support through local RLF, although both may be eligible for traditional bank financing. Both companies are looking to expand in the Delphos area.
- Also working with two businesses that need additional warehouse space. Both have, or will be, in contact with building owners or real estate representatives to make decisions. Together, the businesses would absorb about 75,000 sq. ft.

Business Recruitment and Site Development...

- Coordinating Super Site project to include communications with local team and Poggemeyer. Two grants currently in "play"; \$2.8 M through EDA and \$8 M through the USDOT. By mid-February, we should know which will be applied to project.
- Responded to lead "Project Byte", a leading electronic equipment recycling company looking to establish operations in Ohio. They would employ about 100 people. Returned 8 page questionnaire and specs on one building, VP, that meets their needs.
- Working with tire recycler to identify space and funding requirements for a second location. The project is a spinoff from an existing agri-energy company in Indiana.
- Continue regular communications with potential medical device manufacturing project. Company cancelled a site visit schedule on December 8th. Project waiting for reduced excess capacity with suppliers in Indiana and Florida.
- Delivering presentation and creating curriculum with two other OSU team members to assist economic developers and community leaders to determine feasibility of attracting or developing alternative energy projects.
- Continue to work with wind farm projects in Van Wert, specifically on issues related to tax incentives and public education. One, Iberdrola, submitted full application to PUCO last week. Has eye on being one of first generation-scale wind projects in Ohio.

Planning and Administration...

- Held Stakeholder Luncheon in collaboration with Advisory team members Dec 4.
- Co-taught OSU BRE workshop for several EDers from Mercer, Paulding and Putnam counties this week at Central Insurance. New marketing materials are now available.
- Hosted Wright State Local Issues class of 19 students who toured the NPAC (thanks, Paul!), and the Innovation Center. Presented program on ED issues.
- Received four awards at OSU Extension Annual Conference in December - cost recovery, specialization, diversity and exceptional CD awards.
- Serving as Committee Chair for OSU's annual Land Use Planning conference in September, 2010.
- Published article with two team members on Renewable Energy as an ED strategy for rural areas in "Ohio Township News" in November/ December, 2009 issue.
- Collaborating with Seth to develop Arts Factory at Main Street and CVB offices. Project would generate funds to support Main Street. Planning for open house in March.
- Coordinating with local team (Wright State, Innovation Center and Chamber) to host 2nd annual Entrepreneurship Fair at Vantage. Will present on "local opportunities".