

**WASHTENAW COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
ORIENTATION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 8, 2016**

**8:00-10:00 am**

**Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center  
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor**

**In Attendance:** Ruth Ann Jamnick, Alicia Ping, Conan Smith, Rose Bellanca, Luke Bonner, Todd Clark, Calvin Evans, Lynne Friman, Michael Henry, Eric Helber, Marie Klopff, Leslie Ledbetter, Matt Sandstrom, Brenda Stumbo, Felicia Brabec, Roy Townsend, Evan Pratt, Gregory Dill, and Donna Dolman (Representing Paul Krutko, Jr.)

**Absent:** Amanda Edmonds, Art Serafinski, Paul Krutko Jr., Jerry Clayton, Ryan Buck, Robert Tetens, and Doug Fuller

**Staff & Members of the Public:** Pete Murdock, Mary Kerr, Andy Brush, Mike Gebhard, Austin Wertheimer, Tony VanDerworp, Melisa Milton-Pung, Brett Lenart, and Edwin Peart

**1. Welcome and Introductions of Members Activity**

Conan Smith:

Opening statement and welcoming of the Members.

Smith also provided an overview of the Committee's purpose and charge:

The EDCC is an Advisory Committee charged with making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOC) on the following:

- Developing economic goals for the County;
- Coordinating and developing partnerships and resources for economic development;
- Prioritizing the allocation of County resources for economic development; and Providing annual reports on economic outcomes and metrics

Additional Charges specific to coordination of Act 88 Funds and the Accommodations Ordinance, including:

- ACT 88 FUNDS:
  - Review and award of Act 88 Economic Development Mini-Grants
  - Develop annual Act 88 RFP language for BOC approval
  - Review and recommendations on award of annual Act 88 RFP funding for BOC approval
  - Oversee and evaluate funding recipients
  - Annually prepare and present to the BOC a report summarizing expenditures of Act 88 funds and assessing progress towards the goals adopted by the Board of Commissioners
- ACCOMMODATIONS ORDINANCE:
  - Assist the County Chief Financial Officer in any collection problems that may arise
  - Quarterly review financial and program reports submitted by local agencies which have contracts under this Ordinance

- Annually review and recommend to the BOC approval the budgets of any local agency which has a contract under this Ordinance
- Review annual audits of any local agency which has a contract under this Ordinance and report to the BOC on its review
- Annually review and report to the BOC on the distribution of the proceeds of this tax to local agencies

## 2. Committee Member Ice Breaker Activity

- Melissa Milton-Pung lead the committee through a 20 min exercise that allowed members to share their expertise with each other in small groups, then conducted a brief group discussion.

## 3. Committee Oath Cards

- Edwin Peart: Administered the oaths.
- All appointed Committee Members were present, except for Amanda Edmonds, Paul Krutko, Jr., and Art Serafinski (who will be sworn in at a future meeting).

## 4. Economic Development Overview - Anthony VanDerworp & Conan Smith

VanDerworp presented an overview of some key economic indicator statistics for Washtenaw County, including:

- Major employment sectors
- Job growth from 2006-2014 with projections for the next 3 years
- Top in-demand jobs
- Employment to working age population ratio
- Median family income
- Share of minors living in poverty
- Median wage by educational attainment

The following discussion and questions arose:

- General consensus that a greater comparative lenses be taken for future reports i.e.: include statistics for the state of Michigan and/or the United States when applicable and perhaps a look at other Counties in Michigan.
- Alicia Ping asked for a greater description of how the statistics presented on poverty were calculated and how that threshold changes.
  - Brett Lenart responded: The Federal Governments Official Poverty Threshold is updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted for family size.

Smith provided a brief summary of current county economic development funding, including:

- Where the funding comes from (Accommodations Tax, Federal funding for Work Force Development, and the Act 88 Millage).
- Brief breakdown of investments stemming from the three funding sources.
- Amount and percentage that the Economic Development Budget represents of the total County Budget.

The following question and discussion took place:

- Mike Henry inquired about the federal funding for Workforce Development, specifically how that has changed for the youth development portion mentioned.

- Brett Lenart responded that the funding has been surprisingly steady but some of the requirements and outcome goals that guide how the federal dollars can be spent have changed.
- Todd Clark requested that the staff provide comparison budgets for other counties in the State.

**5. BOC Priority Investment Areas - Conan Smith:**

Smith provided a summary of the Board of Commissioners priority investment areas, to give greater contextual background to the budget as well as the committee charges.

- Priority Investment Areas:
  - Ensure Community Safety Net Through Health and Human Services and Public Safety
  - Ensure Mobility and Civic infrastructure for County residents
  - Reduce Environmental Impact
  - Internal labor Force Sustainability and Effectiveness
  - Increase Economic Opportunity and Workforce Development
  
- Community Impact Statements:
  - Washtenaw County residents and local businesses will have increased and improved access and virtual access to the public and private resources they need
  - Entrepreneurs and local businesses will have increased access to the capital, supports, and talent they need
  - Washtenaw County residents will experience an increase in housing affordability, education, and accessibility
  - Washtenaw County residents will experience increased transportation accessibility

Smith stressed the importance of economic opportunity and equity and the role they will play in forming investment recommendations and in developing new metrics.

**6. Equity Considerations - Brett Lenart:**

- Brett Lenart provided a brief overview of equity research the staff at the Office of Community and Economic Development has done. Using the equity lens has become a greater priority for Washtenaw County in approaching issues facing the County. Lenart talked about how this lens will be important for the Committee to keep in mind as they carry out this impactful work. Critical pieces and tools of the Equity lens include:
  - National and Regional rankings for the County
  - The inequitable recovery from the Recession in terms of job growth and the types of jobs lost/retained/created
  - The opportunity index map that the County has created depicting where the greatest and the least opportunity is located throughout the county, based on an aggregation and ranking of economic and quality of life indicators

**7. Committee Charter & Annual Meeting Schedule – Conan Smith**

- Smith reviewed the process of the Committee Charter and mentioned that the group will adopt the Charter at the next meeting.
- He also announced the annual schedule of meetings and any known irregularities in schedule for 2016.

**8. Committee Staffing and Communications – Tony VanDerworp, Andy Brush**

- Tony VanDerworp provided the contact information for Office of Community and Economic Development staff. He hopes to provide guest speakers electronically via County technologies. More to come in subsequent meetings.

#### **9. Discussion, Questions, Comments – All**

- Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the meeting.
- General Consensus was that the meeting flowed well, and that staff preparation effort was evident.
- Ruth Ann Jamnick suggested that leaders in the County present what they are doing.
- General Consensus that comparisons to other counties, the state, and the nation would be helpful for applicable statistics.
- A committee member stated that although she was familiar with much of the information, the way it was provided and presented shed a different light on the data.

#### **10. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:55am, through general acclimation.
- The next regularly scheduled EDCC meeting will take place **on Friday, February 5, 2016**, 8:00am to 10:00am, in the Superior Room of the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, located at 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

#### **Note:**

*All attachments can be found on the county website <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/edcc>*

#### **Attachments**

Committee Members  
Committee Charter  
Orientation PowerPoint  
Meeting Schedule  
Economic Outlook for Washtenaw County 2015-2017