



Allegan County Economic Development
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December 7, 2022
Meeting via Zoom
Held by Lakeshore Advantage

Board Meeting Minutes
Allegan County Economic Development Commission

Meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Jenifer Garcia.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT: Jenifer Garcia
JD Chamberlain
Mike VanDenBerg
Rich Okoniewski
Matt Smith
Joe Novakoski
Michelle Krcatovich
Denise Siegel
Nora Balgoyen

ABSENT: Commissioner Rick Cain, Commissioner Jim Storey, Stephanie Calhoun, Taylor Hatten

OTHERS: Katie DeGross: Lakeshore Advantage, Mandy Cooper: Lakeshore Advantage, Mason Kraal: Lakeshore Advantage, Dan Wedge: Allegan County

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – A motion was made by Michelle Krcatovich to accept the agenda, seconded by Mike VanDenBerg. The motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO MINUTES – A motion was made by Mike VanDenBerg to accept the minutes, seconded by Matt Smith. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

1. Lakeshore Advantage Update

- a. Projects: 32 projects, \$2.52B, new or retained 3,292 jobs. 45% in Allegan County.
- b. Activities: Lakeshore Advantage awarded ACATEC \$30,400 with MEDC equipment. 280 Allegan County students participate in Discover Manufacturing. Lakeshore Advantage receives international award for Industry 4.0 Awareness campaign.
- c. Events: December 15 at 11:00am Lakeshore Advantage is hosting our Industry Trends Webcast.

Discussion Items

1. ACEDC board Membership & Future Structure:

- a. Michelle Krcatovich thinks Parker Hanifan would be a great company to join the board. Still discussion around someone from Perrigo would be great to have back on the board. Nora suggesting someone from the Gun Lake Casino Tribe to fill recreation/tourism seat.

2. 2023 ACEDC Board Meeting Dates:

- a. ACATEC will host in February. Looking to decide where else to go for other board meetings.

3. Sector Updates:

- a. Rich – connected with local superintendents to share out benefits of ACATEC.
- b. Michelle – In the midst of going pro talent fund program.
- c. Mike – Ag people leaving the industry. Supply chain still having a hard time, and will continue in 2023. Significant statewide reduction in dairy farming.
- d. Denise – Pushed local downtown shopping campaigns and had a successful shop small Saturday. Mill property has been cleaned up and is now on the market. Parceled off the remaining buildings for development. Being strategic on businesses that come in to not take away from others. Utilizing CDBG money from MEDC to add 4 apartments to their downtown.
- e. Dan – RockTen project coming to an end. Housing study for Otsego is underway and individuals from United Way doing a county wide housing study.
- f. Joe – Construction materials are up 15% over the past year. Hoping to see the effects of the ARPA funding and stimulus over the next year. Saugatuck pushing back on high density housing due to lower cost and traffic.
- g. Matt – is familiar with incubators and would enjoy the opportunity to present to LSA.
- h. Nora – Solar state-wide picking up. Small solar project in Pullman area.
- i. Jen – Community health improvement for 2022 is completed. Otsego and Allegan schools looking to become a healthcare center.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING - 2:00 PM on February 22nd at ACATEC

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mike VanDenBerg supported by Jenifer Garcia at 3:43pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by: Katie DeGross