



**Allegan County Economic Development**  
**113 Chestnut Street**  
**Allegan, MI 49010**  
Phone: (269) 686-5311 • Fax: (269) 686-5214  
**E-mail: [aced@allegancounty.org](mailto:aced@allegancounty.org)**  
**[www.allegancounty.org](http://www.allegancounty.org)**

**February 22, 2023**  
Meeting via Zoom  
Held by Lakeshore Advantage

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Allegan County Economic Development Commission**

Meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Jenifer Garcia.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT:                   Jenifer Garcia  
                                  Stephanie Calhoun  
                                  JD Chamberlain  
                                  Michael Kiella  
                                  Matt Smith  
                                  Michelle Krcatovich  
                                  Nora Balgoyen  
                                  Mike VanDenBerg  
                                  Taylor Hatten  
                                  Commissioner Jim Storey

ABSENT:     Denise Siegel, Rich Okoniewski, Joe Novakoski

OTHERS:     Katie DeGroff: Lakeshore Advantage, Greg King: Lakeshore Advantage, Dan Wedge: Allegan County

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA** – A motion was made by Michael Kiella to accept the agenda, seconded by Jim Storey. The motion carried.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO MINUTES** – A motion was made by Mike VanDenBerg to accept the minutes, seconded by JD Chamberlain. 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. Events: December 15 at 11:00am Lakeshore Advantage is hosting our Industry Trends Webcast.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Allegan County Housing Assessment:**

- a. Stephanie shared that the initial assessment is \$45,000. The contract for the assessment has been signed and timing is about 6 months out. Hoping the report is done August 2023. Currently gathering data, stakeholders, and other community members.

### **2. Broadband Taskforce Update:**

- a. Finishing up a grant submission in hopes to get a match of funding to help support the expanding of broadband. Meeting in Lansing mid March. Still looking for additional letters of support.

### **3. Sector Updates:**

- a. Michelle: GoingPro talent funds went to a lot of Allegan manufacturing companies. Allegan got \$2.4M for training, hiring funds, etc. MDARD also has grant funds for crop farmers to help with training support.
- b. Mike: Diesel prices still high this year. Canada is working on increasing their fertilizer which helps support the US.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Downtown Allegan Infrastructure & Streetscape Project/M-89 Roundabout

## **NEXT MEETING - 2:00 PM on June 7th in person**

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jim Storey supported by Nora Balgoyen at 2:55pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by: Katie DeGroff