



**Allegan County Economic Development**  
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**August 23, 2023**  
Meeting at ACATEC  
Held by Lakeshore Advantage

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

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Jenifer Garcia.

Roll Call showed the following members:

PRESENT: Jenifer Garcia  
Nora Balgoyen  
Stephanie Calhoun  
Michelle Krcatovich  
Mike VanDenBerg  
Denise Siegel  
Joe Novakoski  
Michael Kiella  
Matt Smith  
Rich Okoniewski

ABSENT: Taylor Hatten, Parker Johnson, Commissioner Jim Storey

OTHERS: Katie DeGroff: Lakeshore Advantage, Mandy Cooper: Lakeshore Advantage, Jennifer Owens: Lakeshore Advantage, Dan Wedge: Allegan County, David Redding, Jim Connell

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

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO MINUTES** – A motion was made by Michelle Krcatovich to accept the minutes, seconded by Denise Siegel. The motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**1. Lakeshore Advantage Update**

- a. Projects: 13 projects, \$82.8M, new or retained 389 jobs. 34% in Allegan County. 18 projects in the pipeline with 175M in potential investment and 822 new or retained jobs. Mandy gave an update on Developer Day that occurred on August 3. Consumers Energy is hosting a public

meeting regarding Calkins Dam on August 29 at the Allegan High School. Mandy also shared that Lakeshore Advantage submitted an official comment to EGLE regarding the moderate ozone nonattainment.

- b. Upcoming events: 2023 Lakeshore Industry Trends Revealed @ Holland Energy Park on September 3, Tech Week @ SURGE on September 19.
- c. Mandy shared that Lakeshore Advantage's 3-year contract is up for renewal with Allegan County. Mandy shared metrics and milestones to date. The new contract will serve 2024-2026.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. ACEDC Positions:**

- a. Mike VanDenBerg nominated Nora Balgoyen for chair, seconded by Michelle Krcatovich.
- b. Mike VanDenBerg self nominated for vice chair, seconded by Nora Balgoyen.
- c. Mike VanDenBerg nominated Michael Kiella as Secretary, seconded by Stephanie Calhoun.

### **2. Further Findings from an Economic Study:**

- a. David Redding laid the foundation for why the study was conducted. Jim Connell shared about the principles within the study. David then shared what they identified as unmet needs within the secondary enterprise "the mom-n-pop shop" and who should be serving them. Michael Kiella then shared the information within the Matrix comparing features of economic development, enterprise development, and community development.

### **3. Per diem/mileage:**

- a. Dan Wedge shared that Allegan County Board of Commission has revised the per diem/mileage compensation for boards and commissions that serve Allegan County. The EDC has a per diem/mileage rate and asked that all members fill out the form required by Allegan County HR in order to receive funds, and send it directly to him.

### **4. Sector Updates:**

- a. Stephanie: Housing assessment will have some kickoff events in September & October. Asked if anyone should be included please send along. The foundation hired someone to help lead housing.  
Mike VDB: gypsy moths are becoming an issue and can be detrimental to the county.  
Jenifer: United Way named Becky Postma from Heart of United Way covering local Allegan and Ottawa county operations.  
Michelle: lots of grants helping employers train & maintain employees. Please send any employers who may need support her way. Big Brother & Big Sister are looking for mentors at the county level

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**NEXT MEETING – TBD on December 6, in person.**

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business we adjourned the meeting at 3:43pm.

Submitted by: Katie Lokker