



**Allegan County Economic Development**  
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**September 1, 2021**  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
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  
                                  Mike VanDenBerg  
                                  JD Chamberlain  
                                  Rich Okoniewski  
                                  Joe Novakoski  
                                  Commissioner Rick Cain  
                                  Nora Balgoyen  
                                  Michelle Krcatovich  
                                  Denise Siegel  
                                  Cheri Schulz

ABSENT:   Steve Ramus, , John Shagonaby, Commissioner Jim Storey, Patrick Moran, Julie DeCook

OTHERS:   Katie DeGroff: Lakeshore Advantage, Amanda Cooper: Lakeshore Advantage, Dan Wedge: Allegan County

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

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

**INDUSTRY SECTOR UPDATES** – Sent in board packet

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Lakeshore Advantage Update**

- a.** 12 successful projects; 43.08mil in private investment; 364 new/retained jobs. 56 projects in the pipeline; 3.7b in potential investment; 2,996 new/retained jobs. 37% in Allegan County. Advanced Architectural Products newly announced expansion in Allegan Co. ARPA funding: Sitting on the Ottawa Co Steering committee, and giving recommendations to Allegan Co. Webinar coming up with Gino Wickman: Entrepreneurial DNA for Success on Sept 23 @ 12pm. Regional Housing Next study through Up John Institute.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Ambassadors for Economic Development Throughout Our Communities**

- a.** Investor Committee Meeting Update: We are on track to hit our revenue investment goal for Allegan Co. and Ottawa Co in 2021. Recommendations from ACEDC are passed on to Beth. Beth works with Lakeshore Advantage Development Committee to set overall investor targets and strategy for the year.

### **2. Increased Access to Broadband Internet Update**

- a.** September 13 will be next meeting to get the committee group together. Agriculture and Large Industry positions still open. Data presentation shared – hoping to find process to move forward.

### **3. Housing Update**

- a.** Up John Institute study going on that covers 13 counties for the Region 4 partner group. Work for the study will be complete in September, not sure when the full data report will be available.

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

- a.** Construction: Lumber and sheet prices still high. Commercial side – Amazon bought up capacity of current facilities. 8-10mos lead time on manufacturing buildings. Running out of latex paint and other simple supplies.
- b.** Agriculture: coming up on farming season – lots of farming equipment on the road. Allegan Co. fair coming up next week.
- c.** Education: kids in the building at the tech center. Advisory committee meetings coming up. 73% capacity with enrollment. Great enrollment for high skill trade programs. Discover Manufacturing offering virtual tours in hopes to reach more kids.
- d.** Healthcare: 12% COVID positivity rate in Allegan Co. Many healthcare facilities mandating covid vaccine for their healthcare workers. Seeing lots of support staff leaving.
- e.** Commission: July 1<sup>st</sup> passed ordinance to allow ORV's on some roads in Allegan Co. Going fairly well. Courthouse project will be single entrance, completed before winter. ARPA funding – looking to spend most of the money on broadband.
- f.** Utilities: hard to find workers.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **NEXT MEETING - 2:00 PM on September 1 via Zoom**

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by supported by Rick Cain supported by Joe Novakoski at 2:59pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by: Katie DeGross