

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MINUTES  
August 11, 2010**

The August meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments Regional Economic Development District Board was held on August 11, 2010 in the MACOG Conference Room. Commissioner Frank Lucchese, Chairman, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frank Lucchese, Elkhart County Commissioner  
Jeff Rea, Mayor of Mishawaka  
Judy Stone, Marshall County Council  
Oliver Davis, South Bend City Council  
Allan Kauffman, Mayor of Goshen  
John Letherman, Elkhart County Council  
Stephen Luecke, Mayor of South Bend  
Kevin Overmyer, Marshall County Commissioner  
Mark Root, St. Joseph County Council  
Larry Thompson, Mayor of Nappanee  
Ron Troyer, Elkhart County Council  
Andrew Carter, Elkhart County Board of Public Works  
Joe Martin, Jr., Country Auto Center  
Max Courtney, Mutual Bank  
Paul Laskowski, St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Dobson, Kosciusko County Chamber of Commerce  
Kyle Hannon, Elkhart Chamber of Commerce (for Phil Penn)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ernest Wiggins, Mayor of Warsaw  
Mark Senter, Mayor of Plymouth  
Dick Moore, Mayor of Elkhart  
Woody Emmons, Mishawaka City Council  
Robert Kovach, St. Joseph County Commissioner  
Robert Sanders, Kosciusko County Council  
Ron Truex, Kosciusko County Commissioner  
Mark Turner, South Bend Chocolate Company  
Bill Davis, Bremen Chamber of Commerce

**OTHERS PRESENT** Congressman Joe Donnelly  
Donald Kathan, EDA Area Director, Chicago Office  
Dr. Douglas Agbetsiafa, Chair, IUSB School of Business  
and Economics  
Rita Kopala, Private Citizen  
George Herendeen, MACOG Attorney  
Michael Aylesworth, IDEM  
John Weinhold, Elkhart Truth  
Gale Gerber, Town of Nappanee Utilities  
Don Lehman, Town of Nappanee  
Ron Robinson, Kosciusko County Administrator  
Marsha McSherry, Kosciusko County Auditor  
John Byorni, St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission  
Larry Magliozzi, St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission  
Don Kathan, U S Department of Commerce, EDA  
DeMarco Brown, WSBT  
Jennifer Laurent, Marshall County Economic Development

Kathy Hahn, City of South Bend  
Don Inks, City of South Bend  
Kevin Allen, South Bend Tribune  
Hodge Patel, Office of Congressman Joe Donnelly  
Nathan Fenstermacher, Office of Congressman Joe Donnelly  
Bill Wilson, Project Future  
Brent Randall, Goshen Chamber of Commerce  
Sandra Seanor, MACOG Executive Director  
James Turnwald, MACOG Senior Planner  
Karen Hamm, MACOG Senior Planner  
Johnnie Woggon, MACOG Transit Admin Program Specialist  
Rexanna Smith, MACOG Office Manager

## **REPORTS**

**CHAIRMAN:** No report.

**SECRETARY** No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Congressman Joe Donnelly announced that MACOG had received a designation as the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Economic Development District in the State of Indiana. He emphasized that by working together, we would all be able to work at our best level. He emphasized the importance of working together to cut across the diverse economic levels to bring new economic vitality to the region through this designation.

James Turnwald presented information contained in Resolution 01-10 – Endorsement and Approval of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies 2010 – 2014. James noted that the strategies were developed through cooperative meetings with over 100 partners involved in a cross section of business, health and government agencies. It is a plan that was planned by the community, for the community. The Economic Development Administration requires designated districts to hold a minimum of one meeting per year, but MACOG has chosen to hold the meetings on a quarterly basis, with the next meeting taking place on November 10, 2010. There were no questions. James then asked for approval of Resolution 01-10.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY OLIVER DAVIS AND SECONDED  
BY KEVIN OVERMYER TO APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES 2010 – 2014 AS  
CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 01-10. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Turnwald told the group that post-secondary appointments to the MACOG Regional Economic Development District Board had not yet been made. Ballots were handed to members and they were told that an e-mail would also go out to the members, asking them to vote for their choices for that position. He asked that the ballots be returned by November 10, 2010.

Donald Kathan, Area Director for the Economic Development Administration, located at the Chicago office, was then introduced.

Mr. Kathan explained the process a district must go through to become designated by the EDA. He said the goal of an economic development district must be to create or retain jobs and generate private investment. He said that goals must be consistent with a comprehensive economic development strategy. Goals must take into consideration local match availability, environmental issues, engineering aspects and that the jobs created cannot be in construction. Applications for grants may not be made by private companies or individuals.

He also told the group that the EDA process will be changing effective October 1, and will be going to a quarterly funding cycle to streamline the process. With the new process, it is hoped that all aspects of the approval process will occur in 90 days or less.

Kevin Overmyer asked about a fiber optic project that will total approximately \$350,000 and whether or not that project might be considered for funding through the EDA. Mr. Kathan said that because there would be no job creation through the project, he didn't think it would be approved. Sandi told Commissioner Overmyer that MACOG staff members would look over the application before it is sent to the EDA. Mr. Kathan noted that one of the first things the EDA does is ask the MPO what their thoughts are on any project submitted for approval.

Mr. Kathan listed goals of projects that should be part of any project involved in a grant application. Examples of those goals would be projects that help develop high tech and emerging tech; to foster regional innovation and entrepreneurship; nurture industries with regional concentrations (clusters) or to promote green industries or innovations. He said grant proposals should also stress planning and cooperation, nurture strategic planning, regional approaches and intergovernmental cooperation. He notes that grants at this time may be submitted through mail, e-mail, fax or on-line at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). After October 1, applications must be submitted via the on-line site. No other manner of submission will be allowed after that date.

Mr. Laskowski of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce asked Mr. Kathan what percentage of applications are approved. Mr. Kathan remarked that there are always more requests submitted than approved, and they the EDA receives more applications every year. He said those projects that have the best terms of success are those that have the highest probability for creation of new jobs or retention of current jobs.

Mrs. Seanor told the group that MACOG staff would be available to examine grant applications to make sure they are complete before submission.

Dr. Douglas Agbetsiafa, Indiana University of South Bend School of Business and Economics, Chair and Professor of Economics was then introduced. Dr. Agbetsiafa presented the group with current economic indicators and a synopsis of the four county economy before and after the recession.

## **OTHER ACTIONS**

### **VII. Privilege of the Floor**

**VIII. Public Comment** – There were no comments.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the following action was taken:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY OLIVER DAVIS AND  
SECONDED BY STEVE LUECKE TO ADJOURN THE  
MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Seanor, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Lucchese, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman

F:\ABC\MPO\EconDev\WorkPlan\2010\Resolutions\meetings\2010\08 - August 2010\R08minutes.doc