

2009 SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

TO THE

2007-2009 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

For

**Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta,
Montcalm, Osceola, and Ottawa Counties**

Prepared by the

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Submitted as a Supplement to Region 8's

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

**In accordance with requirements of the
U.S. Economic Development Administration**

September 2009

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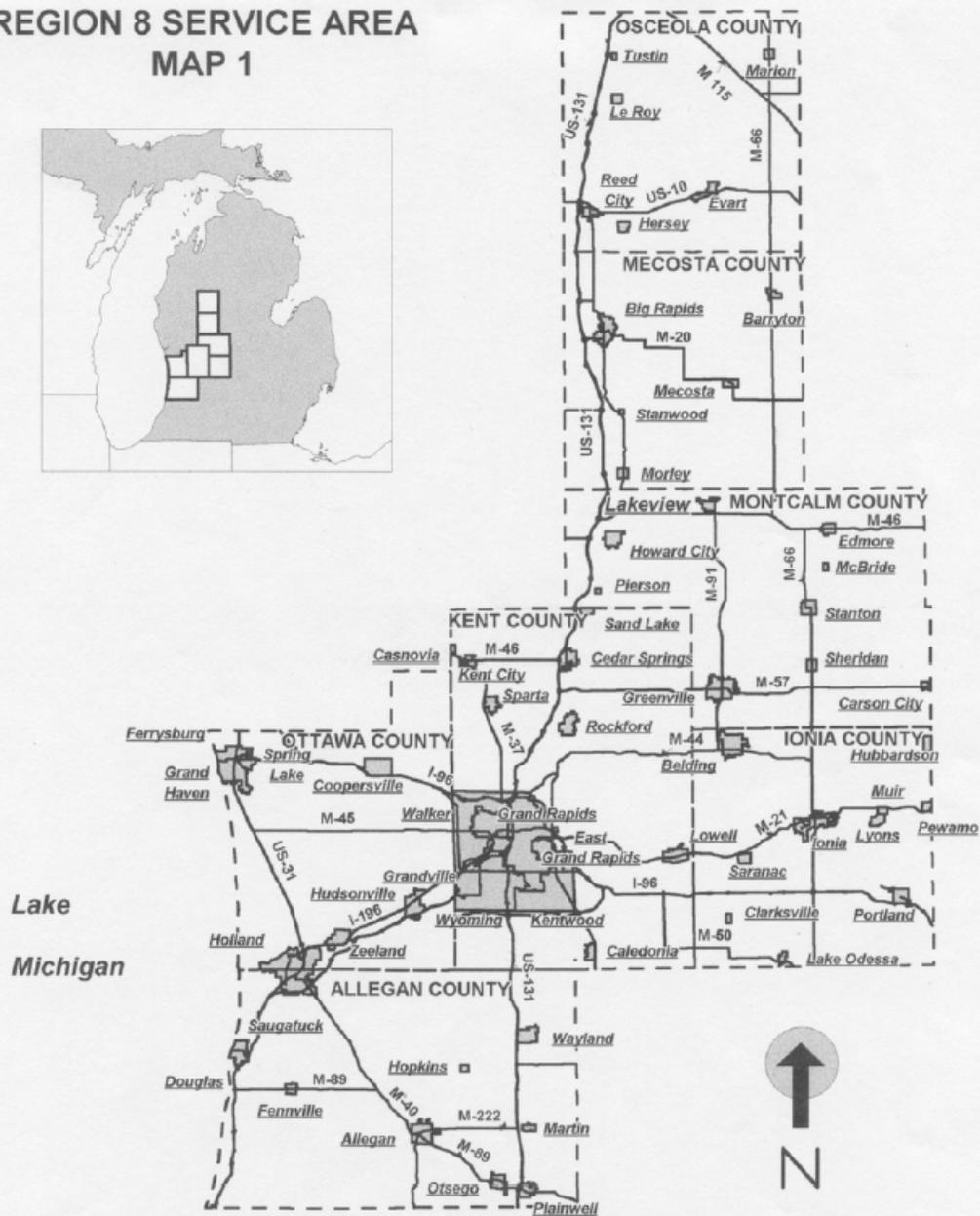
INTRODUCTION

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) is pleased to submit this 2009 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This Supplemental Report represents the third phase of the new three-year planning cycle. The 2007-2009 CEDS remains the principle economic development strategy for the seven county area, known as Region 8, which includes Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, and Ottawa counties (see Map 1). A supplemental report was also submitted in 2008.

In addition to some summary information from the 2007-2009 CEDS, this report provides several additional projects that member communities are interested in implementing that were not included in the 2007-2009 CEDS or the 2008 Supplemental Report. A summary of progress for projects listed in the 2007-2009 CEDS and the 2008 Supplemental Report is also included in this report. The Supplemental Report also includes a summary that identifies activities that have occurred during the first 30 months of the 36-month program. The 2009 Supplemental Report also includes up-to-date employment information for each of the counties and Region 8 as-a-whole. Finally, the Supplemental Report includes a description of new initiatives and a list of Supplemental Goals to reflect the ever-changing needs of the WMRPC, EDA, and our member communities.

With the submission of this Supplemental Report, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission completes its thirty-seventh year as an Economic Development District.

REGION 8 SERVICE AREA MAP 1



Source: Michigan CGI Framework

West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

U.S. Economic Development Administration Investment Policy Guidelines

Investment applications will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed the following investment policy guidelines:

Be market-based and results-driven. An investment will capitalize on a region's competitive strengths and will positively move a regional economic indicator measured on EDA's Balanced Scorecard, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or increased private-sector investment.

Have strong organizational leadership. An investment will have strong leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human-resources talent to ensure a project's successful execution.

Advance productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. An investment will embrace the principles of entrepreneurship, enhance regional clusters, and leverage and link technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation.

Look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversify the local and regional economy. An investment will be part of an overarching, long-term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.

Demonstrate a high degree of commitment by exhibiting:

- High levels of local-government or nonprofit matching funds and private-sector leverage.
- Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials.
- Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners, and local, state, and federal governments.

Vision Statement

The following Vision Statement is the preferred future in 2025 of the seven counties within Region 8. Due to the variety that exists across the seven counties, the Vision Statement is general enough that each of the seven counties can embrace the universal ideas and revise them to meet their own unique features and goals.

The Region's population continues to grow and thrive in well-planned communities that represent the varied lifestyles that West Michigan residents choose. West Michigan's clean environment and diverse natural resources are fundamental to the Region's success and identity.

The Region's economy provides a wide range of jobs that support the Region's residents and provide a payroll and tax base necessary to maintain a high quality of life across the seven-county Region. The diverse economy includes a healthy mixture of base employers including manufacturing, health care services, natural resource-based employment, value-added agriculture, education, new technologies including renewable energy resources, and other forms of base employment. Well planned and coordinated public infrastructure is in place to assist in the healthy growth of the Region's economy.

Healthy urban centers and small towns provide a wide variety of services, while rural areas have sufficient land preserved for farmland and open space. Communities coordinate with neighboring communities and a variety of levels of government to provide a sustainable level of services to their residents. A wide variety of housing exists to meet the varied demands of the diverse population.

Public and private schools provide quality educational opportunities to students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade and the Region's universities, colleges, and other training facilities provide the necessary skills for West Michigan's residents to compete locally or globally.

Mission Statement

The WMRPC adopted the following Mission Statement on June 21, 2002:

To assist planning efforts in community and economic development, provide a regional forum for sharing information and ideas,
and promote cooperative solutions to regional issues.

Summary of Goals

The Goals and Objectives (listed in their complete form in the 2007-2009 CEDS) are divided into two categories: 1) Organizational and 2) Community and Economic Development.

Organizational Goals

Goal #1

The WMRPC shall maintain an active and productive role with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Goal #2

The WMRPC shall keep communities informed of programs offered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Goal #3

The WMRPC shall maintain a Commission and CEDS Committee that meets rules established by EDA.

Goal #4

The WMRPC shall promote coordination between counties, cities, townships, villages, the federal government, the State of Michigan, non-profits and other community-based organizations.

Goal #5

While EDA is the primary partner related to economic development, the WMRPC shall actively participate with other community and economic development organizations.

Community and Economic Development Goals

Goal #1

Communities should maintain an up-to-date vision related to community and economic development.

Goal #2

Communities should recognize the relationship that exists between healthy urban centers and healthy rural areas.

Goal #3

Communities should promote a diverse economy that recognizes the Region's and individual communities' varied strengths.

Goal #4

Communities should investigate and emphasize the long-range impacts of projects as opposed to seeking short-term solutions to issues.

Goal #5

Communities should continuously seek to improve all aspects of community life.

2008-2009 SUPPLEMENTAL GOALS

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will continue to implement the five Organizational Goals and the five Community and Economic Development Goals identified in this document. During the remainder of the three-year CEDS cycle, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee plan to perform the following Supplemental Goals and Objectives:

Supplemental Goal #1

The WMRPC will revise the CEDS Project Evaluation Criteria to better reflect the current needs of Region 8's Communities and the EDA Investment Policy Guidelines.

Objectives:

1. Staff will prepare new set of Evaluation Criteria for review by the CEDS Committee at its January 2009 meeting. *This objective was accomplished.*
2. The CEDS Committee will review, revise, and adopt a new set of Evaluation Criteria and forward the Criteria to the WMRPC for approval. *This objective was accomplished.*
3. The WMRPC and CEDS Committee will begin using the new set of Evaluation Criteria when developing the 2010-2012 CEDS. *The WMRPC and CEDS Committee had a "trial run" of the criteria with the 2009 projects and will use the new criteria when developing the 2010-2012 CEDS.*

Supplemental Goal #2

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will develop a process to expand the CEDS Committee's role in project selection.

Objectives:

1. Recognizing that there are a limited number of projects that EDA and other agencies can fund each year, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will develop, along with the new CEDS Project Evaluation Criteria, a method for the CEDS Committee to select projects that would provide the greatest positive impact to Region 8's member communities. *The new evaluation criteria is the first step in this process, but the WMRPC also experienced challenges related to EDA's requests for additional projects and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which encouraged communities to submit a range of projects.*
2. In addition to evaluating CEDS projects on a region-wide basis, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will develop a method to evaluate projects that would benefit sub-regions within Region 8 (recognizing that there are sub-regions within the seven-county area). *Comments from the previous objective also apply to this objective.*
3. The WMRPC and CEDS Committee will establish sub-regions, made up of two or more counties each that reflect the varied economic development issues across Region 8. *Sub-regions have been discussed and will be established prior to developing the 2010-2012 CEDS.*

Supplemental Goal #3

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will expand the involvement of the private sector representatives on the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee.

Objectives:

1. Establish private sector e-mail list to create ongoing dialog between the private sector representatives. *This objective was initiated, but has not expanded to the level that creates positive changes.*
2. Continue to seek interested private sector representatives from the member communities. *The WMRPC continues to have members appoint high quality representatives to serve on the Commission and the CEDS Committee.*
3. Continue to seek and follow recommendations from EDA related to expanding the involvement of the private sector in the CEDS. *The WMRPC and CEDS Committee continue to participate in EDA activities and strive to support all EDA initiatives.*

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

This section describes the composition of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) and CEDS Committee.

WMRPC

The WMRPC is comprised of public and private, and elected and appointed officials from throughout Region 8 who focus on issues which are common to members or cross jurisdictional boundaries. The WMRPC acts as a regional forum to share ideas and develop regional solutions. The WMRPC also acts as a liaison between West Michigan and state and federal agencies.

The WMRPC currently has 33 representatives, which includes three representatives designated by each member community and three at-large Commission member spaces reserved to assure broad representation of the region. There are also three alternate representatives designated by members. The Commission typically meets five times annually. Commission representatives are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

Name	Address	Telephone
Public Sector Representatives		
Terry Burns (Allegan County)	220 Hoover Blvd. Holland, MI 49423	(616) 355-2525
Thomas Hogenson (City of Big Rapids)	322 S. Warren Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-4409
Mark Gifford (City of Big Rapids)	226 N. Michigan Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-4036
Christine Burns (City of Cedar Springs)	66 S. Main St. Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 696-1330
Pat Capek (City of Cedar Springs)	66 S. Main St. Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 696-1330
Suzanne Schulz (City of Grand Rapids)	300 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503	(616) 456-3033
Walt Gutowski (City of Grand Rapids)	300 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503	
Gregg Yeomans (Ionia County)	1302 W. Lincoln Avenue Ionia, MI 48846	(616) 527-6583
Julie Calley (Ionia County)	10198 Butler Road, Portland, MI 48875	(517) 647-6884
Ray Steinke (Mecosta County)	19207 W. Jefferson, Box 141 Morley, MI 49336	(231) 856-7090

Table 1 (Continued)

Name	Address	Telephone
Paul Bullock (Mecosta County)	400 Elm Street Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 796-2505
John Johansen (Montcalm County)	3503 Monroe Road Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-5375
Tom Lindeman (Montcalm County)	8060 Backus, Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-4918
Elmo Hoaglund (Osceola County)	19020 – 130th Avenue Tustin, MI 49688	(231) 829-3540
Dan Massy (Osceola County)	Osceola Economic Alliance 301 W. Upton, Reed City, MI 49677	(231) 832-7397
Donald Disselkoen (Ottawa County)	300 Farington Blvd. #2 Holland, MI 49423	(616) 395-9820
Mark Knudsen (Ottawa County)	12220 Fillmore West Olive, MI 49460	(616) 738-4852
Sam Bolt (City of Wyoming)	P.O. Box 905 Wyoming, MI 49509-0905	
Tim Cochran (City of Wyoming)	P.O. Box 905 Wyoming, MI 49509-0905	(616) 530-7258
Private Sector Representatives		
L. Charles Mulholland (At-Large Member)	4685 N. Bailey Road Coral, MI 49322	(231) 354-6325
Regina Davis (At-Large Member)	ICCF, 920 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506	(616) 336-9333
Howard H. Hansen (At-Large Member)	1973 Oakleigh Woods NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504	(616) 735-9099
Linda Howell (Allegan County)	6443 Kingsway Ct. Holland, MI 49423	(616) 632-7594
Joseph Harper (City of Big Rapids)	128 N. Warren Big Rapids, MI 49037	(231) 796-7639
Michele Andres (City of Cedar Springs) (City of Grand Rapids)	15476 Simmons Avenue NE Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 696-4443
Joe Marhofer (Ionia County)	8408 Krupp Road Belding, MI 48809	(616) 794-1264
Charles McCafferty (Mecosta County)	9435 Briarstone Drive Stanwood, MI 49346	(231) 972-7292

Table 1 (Continued)

Name	Address	Telephone
Leslie Wood (Montcalm County)	14449 Wabasis Ave. NE Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 328-1214
Morris Langworthy (Osceola County)	17135 Pineview LeRoy, MI 49655	(231) 876-3483
Chris Larson (Ottawa County)	17673 Jordan Spring Lake, MI 49456	(616) 850-3035
Lillian VanderVeen (City of Wyoming)	2751 Colgate Court SW Wyoming, MI 49519	(616) 534-3013
Alternates		
Tom Jessup (Allegan County)	6717 – 108th Avenue South Haven, MI 49090	(269) 637-3374
Linda Howard (Mecosta County)	1332 Nine Mile Road Remus, MI 49340	(989) 967-3468
Joanne Voorhees (City of Wyoming)	5380 Kenowa Ave. SW Wyoming, MI 49418	(616) 534-1876

WMRPC Executive Committee

The WMRPC Executive Committee is comprised of the three officers elected by the WMRPC in January of each year, and additional members appointed by the Chair. The Executive Committee typically meets four times annually. In 2009 the Executive Committee is made-up of the following five people:

- Charles Mulholland, Chair
- Vice Chair – Tim Cochran
- Paul Bullock, Treasurer
- Regina Davis, Member
- Gregg Yeomans, Member

Regional CEDS Committee

In all economic planning and development activities, the WMRPC staff works closely with the District's CEDS Committee, the members of which are listed in Table 2.

The CEDS Committee consists of members from each of the seven counties in the region, which allows for broad geographic representation and provides for close coordination with local governments and agencies. The CEDS Committee membership is also representative of the diverse interests in the Region to ensure that the viewpoints of all interests are considered and to take advantage of local skills in program formulation and implementation. Represented on the Committee are interests of local governments, business, industry, agriculture, finance, community organizations, minorities, and women. All CEDS Committee members have experience in dealing with planning problems from a regional perspective.

The CEDS Committee currently is a 19-member committee comprised of members from each of the seven counties within Region 8 and three at-large members. At its June 16, 2006 meeting, the WMRPC adopted a set of guidelines for the CEDS Committee that satisfies EDA's requirements for the majority of the CEDS Committee being comprised of private sector representatives.

Table 2: 2009 CEDS Committee

Name	Address	Telephone
Public Sector Representatives		
Larry "Casey" Jones (Allegan County)	258 Golfview Plainwell, MI 49080	(269) 664-5362
Cindy Plautz (City of Big Rapids)	226 N. Michigan Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-4036
Kara Wood (City of Grand Rapids)	300 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503	(616) 456-3196
Julianne Burns (Ionia County)	114 N. Kidd St, PO Box 496, Ionia, MI 48846	(616) 527-4170
William Mrdeza (Mecosta County)	Mecosta Co. Dev. Corp. 246 N. State Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-3403
John Johansen (Montcalm County)	3503 Monroe Road Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-5375
Dan Massy (Osceola County)	Osceola Economic Alliance 301 W. Upton, Reed City, MI 49677	(231) 832-7397
Donald Disselkoen (Ottawa County)	300 Farington Blvd. #2 Holland, MI 49423	(616) 395-9820
Tim Cochran (City of Wyoming)	P.O. Box 905 Wyoming, MI 49509-0905	(616) 530-7258
Private Sector Representatives		
Nora Balgoyen-Williams (Allegan County) (City of Grand Rapids)	2188 36th St. Allegan, MI 49010	(269) 686-5079

Table 2 (Continued)

Name	Address	Telephone
Chris Thelen (Ionia County)	Consumers Energy 530 W. Willow, Lansing, MI 48909	(517) 374-2235
David Hamelund (Mecosta County)	18256 Taft Road Big Rapids, MI 49307	
Robert Schuleit (Montcalm County)	441 E. Baldwin Lake Dr. Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-9539
Larry Morlock (Osceola County) – retiring in 2009 after serving 13 years.	9357 S. 95th Avenue Ewart, MI 49631	(231) 734-5200
James Marek (Ottawa County)	16901 Carlson Spring Lake, MI 49456	(231) 724-4320
Lillian Vanderveen (City of Wyoming)	2751 Colgate Court SW Wyoming, MI 49519	(616) 534-3013
Chuck Birr (At-Large)	5609 Bentbrook Kentwood, MI 49508	(616) 813-6356
Howard H. Hansen (At-Large)	1973 Oakleigh Woods NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504	(616) 735-9099
John Miner (At Large)	350 Erin Isle Drive Holland, MI 49424	(616) 298-8257

WMRPC Staff

The WMRPC maintains a staff of three:

- Dave Bee, AICP, Director – Mr. Bee started at the Region in 1999.
- Paul Leitelt, Planner – Mr. Leitelt started at the Region in 2009.
- Nancy Murphy, Administrative Assistant – Ms. Murphy started at the Region in 2000.

PROGRESS REPORT

The following ten topic areas summarize the progress of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) during the first 30 months (January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009) of its three-year (January 1 2007 through December 31, 2009) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

WMRPC and CEDS Committee

The 33-member WMRPC and the 19-member CEDS Committee met throughout the reporting period.

- The WMRPC met 13 times during the reporting period. All meetings had quorums and were well attended.
- The WMRPC maintained an appropriate level of public and private sector representatives. Member communities appoint two public sector members and one private sector member, and there are three additional private sector/at large positions on the WMRPC. The WMRPC Bylaws were changed in 2006 to allow for private sector involvement. The Bylaws were amended again in 2009 to address several issues.
- In addition to the required administrative tasks of the Commission (financial, budget, electing officers, etc.) each meeting had training opportunities. Speakers provided a variety of training. 2007 meeting topics/training included the annual audit report in January, George Bosanic detailed Greenville's new United Solar Ovonic facilities in March, Greg Fox described Ice Mountain's water bottling facilities in June, Jeanne Englehart provided information about the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in September, and Michigan Senator Patricia Birkholz explained water and planning issues in Michigan at the December meeting. 2008 meeting topics/training included Steven Law from the Timberland RC&D in January, Andrew Such from MI Energy Future in March, Steve Redmond from the Michigan Department of Transportation in June, and Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land in December. 2008 meeting topics/training included Judy Barnes describing the Home and Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids in January and Bruce L. Schedlbauer detailing operations at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in June.
- Each Commission Meeting has a "Regional Roundtable," which allows everyone an opportunity to share information and ask questions of how member communities address economic and community development issues.
- In 2008 the Commission began holding meetings around the region. Meetings have been held at the City of Wyoming's offices, the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan, the M-Tech Center in Greenville, and the Public Safety Building in Big Rapids.
- The CEDS Committee met ten times during the reporting period. All meetings had quorums and were well attended. An additional meeting was scheduled in January 2008 but was cancelled due to inclement weather. Additionally, the CEDS Committee is always invited to attend and participate in the December WMRPC Meetings.
- The CEDS Committee maintained an appropriate level of public and private sector representatives. Member communities appoint one public sector members and one private sector member, and there are three additional private sector/at large positions on the CEDS Committee.

- In addition to the required administrative tasks of the CEDS Committee (soliciting community projects, maintaining the CEDS, electing officers, etc.) each meeting had training opportunities. Speakers provided a variety of training. 2007 meeting topics/training included Jenny Shangraw from the Right Place Inc. in January, Sandra Bloem from the Economic Development Foundation in March, Ray DeWinkle from the Michigan Economic Developers Association in May, and two representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in August. 2008 meeting topics/training included Paul Bristol from USDA Rural Development in March. At the May meeting we heard from economic developers from four counties surrounding Region 8: John Czarnecki from Clinton County, Valerie Byrnes from Barry County Ted Thar from VanBuren County, and Andy Lofgren from Newaygo County (this was a fantastic session). At the August meeting we heard from Matt Wiitala, who works with MDOT's Economic Development and Enhancement program and the CEDS Committee heard from several communities in Kent County, including: Matthew Butts, City of Grandville; Frank Wash, City of Walker; Michael Young, City of Rockford; and Rick Sprague from Grand Rapids Charter Township. In January 2009 the Committee heard from Dante Villarreal, who serves at the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center. May's meeting brought Katherine Czarnecki, the manager of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Community Assistance Team (CA Team).
- Each CEDS Committee Meeting has a "Regional Roundtable," which allows everyone an opportunity to share information and ask questions of how member communities address economic and community development issues.
- While the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee both meet EDA's private sector representation requirements, we still struggle with defining a meaningful role for the private sector members. We recently surveyed Commission Members and CEDS Committee Members to determine how to address this. While there is little interest in forming an additional committee, there was some interest in creating an e-mail based committee of private sector representatives to discuss issues and bring ideas to the full Commission and/or CEDS Committee. This initiative was started in 2009, but has not filled the necessary role.

CEDS Documents

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee overhauled the CEDS Document and forwarded the 2007-2009 CEDS to EDA in January 2008. The three-year document includes a variety of information including:

- An Introduction that includes EDA's Investment Policy Guidelines, the WMRPC Vision Statement and Mission Statement, a summary of Goals, and a description of recent changes.
- An Organization and Management section that describes the WMRPC administrative structure, the CEDS process, a description of public and private involvement, a list of scheduled meetings, and the Focus Areas.
- An Economic Development Partners section that describes all of the federal, state, local, and other partners that the WMRPC regularly works with on projects and programs.
- A Community Profile that describes the Region and each of the counties within Region 8.
- A Goals and Objectives segment that identifies both *organizational* goals and objectives and *community* goals and objectives
- A list of Community Projects including EDA specific projects, community development projects, and vital projects and strategies.
- A Plan of Action that identifies actions to address organizational goals.
- A list of Performance Measures.
- Recognizing the need for interim reports, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee developed the 2008 Supplemental Report and submitted it the EDA in September 2008. The supplemental document includes a variety of information including additional goals, new projects, and updated demographic information.

EDA Projects

The WMRPC worked with two communities to move projects forward. The WMRPC assisted in developing and defining the projects and submitted information to EDA for their consideration. The WMRPC also coordinated meetings between EDA and the communities.

- EDA approved a grant to the City of Reed City, in Osceola County, for the amount of \$1,630,000.00 to expand the City's wastewater treatment capacity. Expanded capacity is necessary because of the planned expansion of local businesses, including Yoplait Yogurt, which is located in the City's downtown. The expansion is a team effort between the City, Reed City's Downtown Development Authority, EDA, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), General Mills (Yoplait), and others.
- EDA approved a grant to the Village of Howard City, in Montcalm County, for the amount of \$1,315,000.00 to expand the Village's wastewater treatment capacity. Expanded capacity is necessary because the Village's treatment facilities are at capacity, and this limits the ability of businesses to expand, or for new businesses to locate in the area's Renaissance Zone/Industrial Park. The improvements are a team effort between the Village, EDA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and others.
- The WMRPC assisted in both applications by describing Reed City's and Howard City's needs to EDA, explaining the benefits of the projects to EDA, and by getting EDA to the

table in both communities in order to develop projects that address both communities' goals and EDA's Investment Criteria.

- Both of these projects began with the communities submitting the one-page submission form for inclusion in the CEDS to the WMRPC. This simple process alerted the WMRPC and EDA that a potential project exists. Both projects moved forward because the communities were interested in pursuing funding opportunities, so each sat down with the WMRPC and created a description of each project to submit to EDA. Once EDA was satisfied that the projects met their investment criteria, the EDA invited each of the communities to begin the application process. Both projects involved communicating the goals of each organization (communities and EDA) and working towards the common goal of improving our economy.

Current Economic Development Initiatives

The WMRPC is actively working with several communities and EDA to acquire funding for a variety of projects.

- The City of Greenville has submitted an application to EDA to expand wastewater treatment capacity in order to accommodate United Solar Ovonic and other businesses in Greenville.
- The City of Allegan has submitted an application to EDA to make improvements to its water treatment facilities in order to be able to provide a reliable source of water to Perrigo and the City's other industries.
- Spring Lake Township has submitted an application to EDA for improvements to the Township's wastewater distribution system.
- The City of Ewart is well into the application process to apply for EDA funds to assist in the expansion of the Ewart Air Industrial Park.
- The City of Grand Rapids has submitted an application to EDA to make improvements to Seward Avenue, on the City's west side. The City is also in the very preliminary stage of seeking funding for a Life Science Research Incubator.
- The City of Coopersville is in the very initial phases of requesting funding from EDA to support the transformation of the former Delphi Plant to a dairy processing plant. Public improvements will be related to wastewater.
- The City of Plainwell has presented ideas to EDA and is waiting for private developer interest before further pursuing funding to convert a former paper mill to a public-private jobs center. The City is in the process of selecting a viable developer.
- The City of Holland explored the use of EDA to improve the Tulip City Airport – but the project, as currently planned, does not align with EDA's investment criteria.
- The Village of Marion explored the use of EDA to improve the Village's wastewater treatment facilities – but the project, as currently planned, does not align with EDA's investment criteria. The WMRPC suggested using USDA Rural Development funds, which is the likely direction the Village will go to fund the necessary improvements.
- Dorr Township explored the use of EDA to improve the Township's infrastructure in order to address anticipated growth related to the casino in Allegan County – but the project, as currently planned, does not align with EDA's investment criteria.

- The WMRPC met with Lakeshore Advantage to determine if EDA could be involved in the Pfizer facility. The Director continues to follow this project to determine if EDA is a suitable source of funding.
- The City of Big Rapids requested EDA funds to make improvements to its wastewater system, but timing did not align between the City's schedule and EDA application process.
- On July 22, 2008 the WMRPC Director submitted a report to the Director of Ottawa County Planning and Grants detailing visits that occurred in June and July 2008 to 13 communities within Ottawa County to describe EDA programs to the communities and to seek potential economic development projects.
- The WMRPC spent much of June 2008 visiting 13 communities in Ottawa County to describe EDA and the potential eligibility of communities across Ottawa County. In the past, Ottawa County has not been eligible for assistance from EDA, but Michigan's current economic downturn is affecting incomes and unemployment rates. Additionally, Ottawa County has lost many jobs due to plant closings and consolidations. The visits created a lot of interest in EDA and will generate several potential projects. The first potential projects will probably come from the City of Hudsonville, which has several projects intended to improve business opportunities within the City (street realignments, property consolidation, etc.).

Interaction with EDA

In addition to telephone calls, e-mails, and other routine communications with EDA, the WMRPC had many opportunities to interact with EDA.

- The WMRPC met with EDA in West Michigan on several occasions including:
 - June 2009 the Director of the WMRPC met with Dennis Foldenauer in Coopersville and Holland to discuss potential projects with Randy Thelen (Lakeshore Advantage) and Ken Rizzio (Ottawa County Economic Development).
 - March 2009 the Director of the WMRPC met with Dennis Foldenauer in Spring Lake Township to learn of a new project.
 - March 2009 the Director of the WMRPC gave Dennis Foldenauer a tour of the Seward Avenue project area in Grand Rapids.
 - August 2008 EDA (Jack Price and Dennis Foldenauer) met at the offices of the WMRPC with staff, Commission members, and CEDS Committee members to present new challenges related to project selection.
 - June 2008 the WMRPC hosted a meeting between EDA, Howard City, and Reed City to inform both communities of their responsibilities related to their EDA Grants.
 - January 2008 in Reed City
 - September 2007 in Grand Rapids
 - September 2007 in Howard City
 - May 2007 in Reed City
 - April 2007 the WMRPC met in Lansing to perform a peer review of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (with EDA).
- The WMRPC Director and Chair attended a Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) meeting related to the EDA regional project on July 22 and 23, 2009 in Lansing.

- The WMRPC Director attended a meeting in Lansing in June 2009 to hear from EDA and other federal programs.
- The WMRPC Director and Chair attended a Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) meeting with EDA representatives in Mt. Pleasant on January 22 and 23, 2009.
- The WMRPC Director attended a meeting in Lansing in December 2008 with EDA representatives to learn of the new grant application process.
- The WMRPC Director presented a description of Greenville Michigan's loss of Electrolux to the City of Wilmington Ohio, with the Director of the Chicago EDA District, in September 2008.
- The WMRPC Director attended a Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) meeting with EDA representatives on Mackinac Island in September 2008.
- The WMRPC Director attended the EDA conference in Cleveland in May 2008.
- The WMRPC Director met with EDA in Chicago in November 2007.

Current Initiatives (Other than Economic Development)

While economic development and the relationship between communities, the WMRPC, and EDA is the primary focus of the WMRPC, there are several other initiatives coordinated by the WMRPC.

- The WMRPC receives an annual grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, (MDOT) to provide planning assistance to MDOT and local communities.
- The WMRPC works closely with Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council to develop a statewide asset management program. The Director serves on Michigan's Transportation Asset Management Council and the WMRPC coordinates the effort that involves MDOT, county road commissions, cities, villages, and the WMRPC physically evaluating the condition of Region 8's federally funded roadways. The WMRPC is currently in the sixth year of this program.
- The WMRPC coordinates the M-40/M-89 Corridor Committee, which meets quarterly and maintains a list of short and long-term transportation projects along the 27 mile long corridor in Allegan County.
- The WMRPC participates in the M-66 Corridor Committee, which meets quarterly and maintains a list of short and long-term transportation projects along the 24 mile long corridor in Ionia County.
- The WMRPC initiated the Greater Greenville Transportation Study and Committee in 2007. The group represents communities in three counties (Ionia, Kent, and Montcalm) and has made great efforts to identify key issues and goals related to transportation, economic development, and land use.
- The WMRPC is almost finished with developing a map of non-motorized facilities (a bicycle map) of West Michigan. The project is funded by MDOT.
- The WMRPC is very interested in wind energy and other renewable energy resources. The Director has attended several educational sessions related to wind turbines that have described the benefits of wind turbines and the challenges related to locating turbines (environmental, zoning, etc.). The WMRPC has obtained funds to perform a study related to locating wind turbines, preserving farmland, and providing economic benefits to communities.

Community Initiatives

The WMRPC performs many plans and studies that directly benefit individual members, or groups of member communities. Some of the recent and ongoing initiatives include:

- City of Big Rapids Master Plan – The WMRPC is currently working with the City of Big Rapids, in Mecosta County, to update the City’s Master Plan. The planning process began in January 2008 and should be completed in fall/winter 2009.
- The WMRPC is working with the Village of Howard City and Reynolds Township in Montcalm County to develop a Joint Master Plan – one of the first in Michigan.
- The WMRPC is working with Morton Township in Mecosta County to develop a Recreation Plan.
- The WMRPC is also being considered for several additional community projects including a Recreation Plan in the Village of Pewamo, a recreation plan in Carson City, and several other recreation plans across the Region.
- City of Allegan Recreation Plan – The WMRPC updated the City of Allegan’s Recreation Plan in 2009.
- Allegan Township Recreation Plan – The WMRPC developed Allegan Township’s Recreation Plan in 2009.
- Osceola County Solid Waste Committee – The Director is currently serving on the Solid Waste Committee.
- Allegan County Economic Development – The WMRPC has been meeting with Allegan County to assist in their decision-making process related to how to administer and promote economic development in the County.
- For the past two years the Director has served on the Montcalm County Transit Committee to develop a strategy for expanding transit services in the County.
- Montcalm County Recreation Plan & Grant 2007-08 – Between 2007 and 2008 the WMRPC updated Montcalm County’s Recreation Plan and assisted in the successful application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a \$60,000.00 grant to build an accessible fishing pier in one of Montcalm County’s parks.
- Casco Township Recreation Plan & Grant – In 2007 the WMRPC developed a recreation plan for Casco Township and assisted in the successful application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund for a \$2,000,000.00 grant to acquire 15 acres of recreational land on Lake Michigan.
- Sherman Township Master Plan – The WMRPC updated Sherman Township’s (in Osceola County) master plan in 2007. The rural township had a variety of issues including the sudden interest in wind turbine companies due to the high elevation of the township.
- Crystal Township Recreation Plan – The WMRPC updated the Township’s Recreation Plan in 2007. Over the years, Crystal has been very successful in seeking grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Ionia County Bertha Brock Park – The WMRPC assisted Ionia County in updating its goals related to recreation and park improvements in 2007.
- Village of Lyons Recreation Plan – The WMRPC updated the Village of Lyon’s Recreation Plan in 2007.
- Eastown Business Association August 2007 – The WMRPC performed an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of Eastown Business District in the City of Grand Rapids.

Community Outreach

The WMRPC has a variety of methods for promoting the region and the many programs it administers.

- The WMRPC sends its newsletter, *Region 8 Notes*, to nearly 700 community leaders and organizations. The newsletter is sent out every two months.
- The WMRPC provides a summary of activities for each member in July, along with a notice of how much dues will be for the coming year.
- The WMRPC maintains a web page. Visit wmrpc.org to see the latest information about Region 8.
- The WMRPC regularly meets with County Boards, City Commissions, Village Boards, Township Boards and other community-based organizations.
- One of the best methods for community outreach is our Commission Meetings and CEDS Committee Meetings, where elected and appointed officials regularly gather to share information.
- The WMRPC Director visited every City and Village in Ionia County in June 2009 to solicit potential projects for EDA funding and educate communities about the WMRPC.
- In April and May 2009 the Director of the WMRPC met with four Michigan State Representatives and one State Senator to discuss the role of the WMRPC.
- In August 2008 the WMRPC facilitated a meeting between USDA Rural Development and communities in the counties of Montcalm, Mecosta, and Osceola to learn of a special initiative to assist communities in distressed counties.
- In 2008 the City of Grand Rapids, along with most communities in West Michigan, continued to struggle financially. The City of Grand Rapids and Ottawa County both considered not funding dues to the WMRPC in 2009. The Director met twice with the City Commission and several times with individual City Commissioners and City Staff to describe the benefits of membership, and once with the Ottawa County Commission. Additionally, the WMRPC placed a ceiling on dues to limit the amount larger counties or communities have to pay (two of our members were paying a disproportionate amount of the total dues). These actions insured continued membership in the WMRPC by the City of Grand Rapids and Ottawa County.
- In July 2008 the WMRPC Director visited the City of Hudsonville to tour the community and hear about a seven-phase approach the City would like to undertake to revitalize its business center, industrial areas, and other parts of the community.
- The WMRPC spent much of June 2008 visiting 13 communities in Ottawa County to describe EDA and the potential eligibility of communities across Ottawa County.

Interaction with Other Planning and Economic Development Districts and Organizations

In addition to working with our funding providers and our members, the WMRPC participates in several other community development organizations to remain current on topics of value to our member communities.

- The WMRPC Director is a member of the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) which provides education and networking opportunities throughout the year, and provides web updates almost daily.
- The WMRPC is an active participant with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), which is Michigan's primary economic development agency.
- The WMRPC is an active member of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR). MAR meets 4-6 times annually. Additionally, MAR has educational retreats and other gatherings to promote and educate Michigan's regions. In July 2008 the WMRPC Director attended the Michigan Association of Regions/Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. In July 2009 the WMRPC Director attended the Michigan Association of Regions/Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Also in July the Director and Chair attended the third strategic workshop held in Lansing.
- Two staff members are members of the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) and the Director serves on MAP's Government Relations Committee. The Director attended the MAP Conference in October 2008 in Kalamazoo. The Director also attended training session in March and May 2008.
- The WMRPC still interacts with the West Michigan Strategic Alliance (WMSA), but not as frequently as in the past.
- The WMRPC regularly interacts with the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) on projects and other opportunities. Two staff members attended the GVMC conferences in June 2007 and June 2008, and one attended in June 2009.
- The Director is a member of the Grand Rapids Economic Club, which provides many opportunities to interact with a variety of public and private sector people and organizations.
- The WMRPC is a regular participant with Rural Partners. The Director and Chair attended the organization's conference in April 2007, the Chair attended in April 2008, and the Director and Chair attended in 2009 – and the Chair of the WMRPC also serves on the Board of Rural Partners.
- The WMRPC interacts with The Right Place Inc. (RPI) (the economic development organization for the Grand Rapids Area) in a variety of ways, including inviting speakers from the RPI to Commission and CEDS Committee meetings, working to define projects, and attending the annual economic outlook (last one was in December 2008).
- The WMRPC continues to support programs related to urban and rural issues through the MSU Kent County Extension.
- In August 2008 the WMRPC Director met with officials from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to promote working closer with Michigan's Regions.
- Interacted with counties surrounding our region by inviting economic developers from Barry, Clinton, Newaygo, and Van Buren counties to speak at the CEDS Committee meeting in March 2008.
- The Director attended the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan's Conference in April 2008 (and he is a member).
- The Director taught classes about regional planning and economic development to Public Administration students at Grand Valley State University in January 2007 and March 2008.

- Staff from the WMRPC attended training on the U.S. Census in April 2007 and October 2007.
- The WMRPC sponsored a web cast in Grand Rapids by Michigan's Center for Regional Excellence in July 2007.
- The Director attended the Land Conservancy of West Michigan Conference in October 2007 (and he is a member).

Administrative

The WMRPC continues to administer all of the grants and programs, maintain an accurate accounting system, perform a variety of mailings, and perform many routine administrative tasks. Two additional tasks accomplished during the reporting period include:

- The WMRPC reviewed all of its policies in 2009 and amended the Bylaws and Personnel Policy to reflect changes that have occurred over the years.
- In 2008 the WMRPC placed a ceiling of \$5,000 on dues to decrease the fiscal impact of membership on larger members.
- The WMRPC transitioned its books to new accounting software in August 2007.
- The WMRPC continued its tradition of trouble-free audits in October 2007 and October 2008.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

In order to keep EDA up-to-date, it is essential to provide current information related to Region 8's economy. Currently, the WMRPC believes every member community in Region 8 is eligible to receive EDA funding due to the 24 month unemployment rate of each county, when compared to the national average.

Table 3: Employment Data for the 24-Month Period between July 2007 and June 2009

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
USA	154,147,000	144,452,625	9,694,458	6.3
Michigan	4,934,250	4,475,333	459,000	9.3
Region 8	594,751	545,884	48,868	8.2
Allegan County	55,323	50,602	4,722	8.6
Ionia County	30,276	27,342	2,934	9.7
Kent County	319,423	295,210	24,213	7.6
Mecosta County	19,782	17,893	1,889	9.6
Montcalm County	26,487	23,093	3,393	12.8
Osceola County	9,525	8,493	1,032	10.9
Ottawa County	133,935	123,251	10,685	8.0

Source: State of Michigan Labor Market Information; WMRPC

Table 3 shows that for the 24 month period beginning July 2007 and ending June 2009 that Region 8's overall unemployment rate was 8.2 percent, which is nearly two percentage points above the national average for the reporting period. While Region 8's unemployment rate was considerably higher than the national average, it was lower than Michigan's average of 9.3 percent. Unemployment rates varied across Region 8, with Montcalm County having the highest unemployment rate of the seven counties (12.8 percent) and Kent having the lowest (7.6 percent). Two counties within Region 8 had lower unemployment rates than the region as-a-whole (Ottawa and Kent). The remaining five counties (Allegan, Ionia, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Osceola) were higher than Region 8's average. Currently, all seven counties and the communities within each of the counties are eligible for EDA funding based on the 24-month unemployment rate.

Table 4 identifies the five-year employment trends in West Michigan, the United States, and Michigan. During the period between 2004 and 2008 Region 8's unemployment rate rose from 6.6 percent in 2004 to 7.4 percent in 2008. Region 8's unemployment rate was consistently lower than Michigan's, but higher than the national average.

During the five-year period, employment trends varied by county. In Allegan County the labor market increased and the number of employed also increased – but at a slower rate which created an increase in the number of unemployed and an unemployment rate of 7.4 percent in 2008. In Ionia County, the labor market remained steady, but the number of employed decreased – which created a higher unemployment rate that reached 8.6 percent in 2008. Kent County's labor market increased in 2005 and 2006 before dropping in 2007 and 2008, and the employed trends were similar – which created decreasing unemployment rates

until 2007 and 2008, where the rate hit 6.9 percent. Mecosta County's labor force and number of employed were both very steady over the five year period – creating a pretty even unemployment rate until 2008 when it hit 8.9 percent. Montcalm County's labor force decreased during the five year period and the number of employed decreased at a greater rate, creating an unemployment rate of 11.8 percent in 2008 (the County's unemployment rate peaked in 2006 with a rate of 12.7 percent). Osceola County's labor force decreased during the five year period and the number of employed decreased at a greater rate pushing the County's unemployment rate to 9.8 percent in 2008. Ottawa County's labor market and number of employed increased through 2007 and then decreased in 2008 – creating a sharp increase in unemployment that hit 7.0 percent in 2008.

Table 4 also shows the differences between each of the seven counties. The largest, with a 2008 labor force of 321,103, is Kent County – which is 34 times larger than Osceola County's 2008 labor force of 9,492. Ottawa County, with a 2008 labor force of 134,494 is the second largest labor force, followed by Allegan County with a labor force of 55,367, Ionia County with 30,286, Montcalm County with 26,548, and Mecosta County with a 2008 labor force of 19,820. Montcalm County had the highest unemployment rate for the past four years, with Osceola County having the highest rate in 2004. Ottawa County had the lowest unemployment rate from 2004 through 2007, but went above Kent County in 2008.

Table 4: Employment Trends for the Five Year Period of 2004-2008

Area	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
USA (Unemployment Rate)	5.5%	5.1%	4.6%	4.6%	5.8%
Michigan (Unemployment Rate)	7.1%	6.8%	6.9%	7.1%	8.4%
Region 8					
Labor Market	594,027	603,558	609,650	605,412	597,110
Employed	555,061	567,654	572,427	567,688	552,650
Unemployed	38,966	35,904	37,223	37,724	44,460
Rate	6.6%	5.9%	6.1%	6.2%	7.4%
Allegan County					
Labor Market	53,259	55,010	56,509	56,270	55,367
Employed	49,762	51,595	53,104	52,747	51,117
Unemployed	3,497	3,415	3,405	3,523	4,250
Rate	6.6%	6.2%	6.0%	6.3%	7.7%
Ionia County					
Labor Market	30,408	30,908	31,552	30,618	30,286
Employed	28,023	28,678	28,999	28,349	27,674
Unemployed	2,385	2,230	2,553	2,269	2,612
Rate	7.8%	7.2%	8.1%	7.4%	8.6%
Kent County					
Labor Market	316,881	321,568	325,119	324,995	321,103
Employed	295,859	303,087	306,936	306,088	298,792
Unemployed	21,022	18,481	18,183	18,907	22,311
Rate	6.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.8%	6.9%
Mecosta County					
Labor Market	19,887	20,180	20,402	20,146	19,820
Employed	18,459	18,720	18,903	18,646	18,065
Unemployed	1,428	1,460	1,499	1,500	1,755
Rate	7.2%	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	8.9%
Montcalm County					
Labor Market	29,546	29,445	28,361	26,964	26,548
Employed	27,212	26,914	24,755	23,868	23,413
Unemployed	2,334	2,531	3,606	3,096	3,135
Rate	7.9%	8.6%	12.7%	11.5%	11.8%
Osceola County					
Labor Market	10,438	10,238	10,249	9,937	9,492
Employed	9,537	9,466	9,506	9,152	8,566
Unemployed	901	772	743	785	926
Rate	8.6%	7.5%	7.2%	7.9%	9.8%
Ottawa County					
Labor Market	133,608	136,209	137,458	136,482	134,494
Employed	126,209	129,194	130,224	128,838	125,023
Unemployed	7,399	7,015	7,234	7,644	9,471
Rate	5.5%	5.2%	5.3%	5.6%	7.0%

Source: State of Michigan Labor Market Information; WMRPC

PROJECT LIST

Communities across Region 8 continuously plan for their futures and issues arise every year that each community could not easily anticipate with any amount of planning. Given these facts, the WMRPC solicited additional projects from communities by mailing out solicitation letters, working with the CEDS Committee, visiting communities, writing newsletters, and initiating meetings between EDA and communities. The following is a list of potential EDA projects that were not included in the 2007-2009 CEDS, or are more up-to-date versions of projects included in the 2007-2009 CEDS.

This section of the 2009 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 CEDS is made up of several sub-sections that include 2009 projects, 2008 projects, and projects that were submitted for the original 2007-2009 CEDS. Some of the 2008 projects were removed since they are now included in the 2009 list. Some of the 2007-2009 projects were removed because of a variety of reasons including moving up to the 2008 or 2009 list, the projects were completed, the projects are underway and will be completed within the year, or the communities have chosen to not continue to pursue the projects due to changes in community goals or capacity. All of the projects listed in any of the categories (except for those removed from the lists) should be considered as viable projects under the 2007-2009 CEDS.

2009 Capital Improvement Projects

City of Allegan – Allegan County – Water Treatment Facility Improvements

The City of Allegan plans to update its water treatment plant to provide a more consistent and reliable water source and thereby meet the needs of business and industry. Proposed upgrades will improve the quality of the treated water and include: replacement of up-flow clarifiers, more effective removal of both iron and sludge from the water, and location of the City's high pressure water pumps at the facility to improve redundancy and pumping efficiency. System improvements will enable a more efficient and uniform water source to serve the City's manufacturing businesses.

Estimated cost: \$8.0 million

City of Holland – Allegan County – 48th Street Corporate Development

This project is located on 48th Street between Waverly Road and the east City limits. This street is a two-lane rural roadway that is adjacent to large tracts of vacant property that are prime potential locations for corporate development. Water and sewer are already available to most of the properties along this corridor. The City of Holland continues to have interest expressed by corporations about the development of these properties. This 48th Street area will need to be upgraded and improved to industrial standards in order to accommodate the proposed corporate development at this location.

Estimated cost: \$3.0 million

City of Holland – Allegan County – Replace Instrument Landing System

The current Instrument Landing System (ILS) at the Tulip City Airport was installed in the mid-1990's. This old ILS is in a deteriorating condition. A highly functioning ILS is critical to safe use of the airport by local businesses. Many area employers rely on the airport to conduct their global business operations. The availability of a safe and reliable airport has

become extremely important to the retention and expansion of jobs within the local area. The replacement ILS system will be state-of-the-art and will enable the Holland/Zeeland community to be competitive in today's economic environment.

Estimated cost: \$1.8 million

City of Plainwell – Allegan County – Public Private Employment Center

This project will redevelop a 36-acre site that was the former location of the Plainwell Paper Mill. The location includes a one million square foot building that housed the paper mill, a millrace, and the former site's wastewater treatment facilities. The proposed facility will be a multi-use public and private mixture where people will work, shop, learn, and interact with local government departments; public uses will include relocated City offices. Proposed work will involve upgrades to the existing building, including demolition of some areas, renovation of both interior and exterior building features, accessibility improvements, parking, landscaping, refurbishment of the millrace, and water and sewer upgrades.

Estimated cost: \$41.5 million

Dorr Township – Allegan County – Wastewater Improvements

Dorr Township is a member of a joint wastewater authority with the adjacent Leighton Township. In order to retain and attract businesses, it is essential to ensure adequate public infrastructure. Several successful businesses are located in the Township's industrial area; these companies generate many high wage jobs; additional commercial and service businesses also provide local employment. In order to promote economic development in the area, Dorrr Township proposes to add 1.26 miles of pipe that will enable businesses to access the Authority's wastewater treatment facilities. The new line will serve industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential customers.

Estimated cost: \$1.5 million

City of Holland – Allegan County – Tulip City Airport

Tulip City Airport West Michigan's corporate gateway, which is home to a number of major corporations and manufacturing facilities that generate tens of thousands of high-wage jobs for employees living in the region. It is essential for these companies to be able to quickly access their facilities and to be able to showcase the community. The current terminal is located in a 50 year old converted ranch house, which does not provide adequate capacity, nor does it project a positive image. Proposed improvements involve constructing a new facility, the adding more corporate hangers, and upgrading the instrument landing system.

Estimated cost: \$3.0 million

City of Holland – Allegan/Ottawa Counties – Fiber Optic Build-Out

The Holland Board of Public Works has already installed a fiber loop through the City. However, the availability of additional fiber will constitute a vital enhancement to the community's ability to retain and attract jobs for residents. The provision of a comprehensive fiber optic network has become as essential to business success as the availability of roads, water, electricity, and other infrastructure expectations. In order for a community to be competitive in today's challenging economic environment, it is necessary for it to offer a full range of infrastructure services to existing and prospective manufacturers and other businesses.

Estimated cost: \$1.5 million

City of Fennville DDA – Allegan County – Business Incubator

The City of Fennville has initiated planning for a downtown business incubator, on a parcel owned by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA); the site is located on M-89 in the heart of downtown Fennville. The site plan includes an open-air pavilion that would be used for a Farmers Market in the warmer months and as a Community Ice Skating Rink in the winter months. The site plan also provides for two outside businesses to locate to the property. And the facility would feature a business incubator to be operated by the DDA.

Estimated cost: \$1.65 million

City of Fennville DDA – Allegan County – Train Station

The City of Fennville would like to construct a new train station near the old silos. The new station would facilitate an Amtrak stop in the City and thereby enhance tourism opportunities not only for Fennville, but also for the surrounding communities. Nearby Saugatuck and Douglas have expressed their interest, and expect that it would benefit their tourism business as well. The anticipated increase in tourism would be beneficial to many related local businesses in the area, including shops, restaurants, taxi services, and lodging establishments. The City is in discussions with MDOT and CSX and is preparing a site plan for the project.

Estimated cost: \$250,000

City of Belding – Ionia County – Wastewater System Capacity Improvements

The City of Belding maintains a wastewater treatment facility that is essential for retaining existing businesses and for attracting new businesses to the area. Improvements are needed for two lift stations and update of two ponds.

Estimated cost: \$746,000.00

City of Belding – Ionia County – Water Main Upgrades and River Crossing

The City of Belding needs to make several improvements to water mains to better serve existing and potential businesses.

Estimated cost: \$727,000.00

City of Ionia – Ionia County – Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

The City of Ionia maintains a wastewater treatment facility that is part of an authority that serves the City of Ionia and the four surrounding townships of Berlin, Easton, Ionia, and Orange. Upgrading the facilities is essential for the continued success of existing businesses and to allow for capacity to attract new businesses to the area.

Estimated cost: \$1,774,500.00

City of Grand Rapids – Kent County – Seward Avenue Improvements

The extension and improvement of Seward Avenue between Fulton and Butterworth Streets is designed to expand the improved north-south connector street on the City's west side. Physical improvements will include street re-alignments, widening of streets, the addition of boulevards, and the addition of amenities such as sidewalks, signage, and street lights. The project will improve access to industrial properties in the area and divert industrial truck traffic away from adjacent residential neighborhoods. The project is expected to leverage

substantial private investment and result in additional industrial capacity as well as considerable job creation and retention.

Estimated cost: \$4.4 million

City of Grand Rapids – Kent County – Life Science Research Incubator

This project will expand high tech incubator capabilities and capacity within the City's SmartZone District. New development and expansion of medical facilities in the metropolitan area has created thousands of jobs and millions of investment dollars. To accommodate existing development and the need for additional space for life science research projects, Grand Rapids proposes to develop a medical research incubator in the North Monroe area of the City, adjacent to the "Medical Mile". The project will provide the equipment, space, and support necessary for a life science research incubator, including land acquisition, construction of a new facility, and equipment purchase, in addition to staffing, marketing, and entrepreneur programming.

Estimated cost: \$10.0 million

City of Big Rapids – Mecosta County – Wastewater Treatment Improvements

The City's wastewater system serves both residential and business customers in the City itself as well as Big Rapids and Green Townships. Proposed system upgrades include conversion of the City's plant from an aerobic to an anaerobic process, addressing the sludge handling weaknesses, installation of oil and grease handling, and improved chemical feeds and settling capabilities. The impact of a quality wastewater system at affordable rates is vital to the future economic success of the entire area. The improvements will serve existing customers and also attract new businesses to vacant areas of the City, the City's Industrial Park, and the EDA-funded Big Rapids Township Industrial Park.

Estimated cost: \$9.5 million

City of Greenville – Montcalm County – Wastewater Treatment Plant

The City plans to increase its wastewater treatment capacity from the current 1.5 MGD (million gallons per day) to 1.75 MGD in the first of two 10-year phased improvements. Upgrades will include improvements to the trickling filter system and increased sludge digestion capacity. The City also plans to expand capacity by reducing inflow to the system related to combined sewer overflow. Capacity will also be expanded by the use of solar panels to generate electricity. The proposed improvements will serve the needs of Greenville's existing and potential employers, including high-tech manufacturers like United Solar Ovonic, as well as more traditional manufacturers and also agricultural businesses.

Estimated cost: \$3.8 million

City of Evart – Osceola County – Evart Air Industrial Park Expansion

The City of Evart plans to expand its Air Industrial park, with land acquisition and project design already in process. Plans involve an additional 51–74 acres of industrial park space adjacent to US-10. The expansion is needed to attract advanced manufacturing and intelligence firms that require access to a general aviation facility airport. The project will include the construction of an Airport Terminal Building with start-up industrial tenant office space, a university business education training facility, and offices of the LDFA (Local Development Finance Authority). When fully operational, the location could support 1,000 additional jobs.

Estimated cost: \$5.7 million

Village of Marion – Osceola County – Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

The Village of Marion’s wastewater treatment facilities are in need of upgrades to meet the future demands of the Village and the surrounding area and to allow businesses to expand and locate in the Village. Proposed improvements include a meter for monitoring dissolved oxygen, additional equipment to ensure the facility is secure, repair and replacement of valves and pipelines, and repair of leaks in one of the paddies’ leaking dykes. This project will provide existing residents and businesses with a quality wastewater system, as well as facilitate the location of new businesses in the vacant areas of the Village, including in the Village’s industrial park.

Estimated cost: \$3.0 million

Spring Lake Township – Ottawa County – Wastewater Treatment Improvements

Spring Lake Township participates with the surrounding communities in a joint sewer authority. The Township needs to upgrade its wastewater transmission system to meet the existing and future needs of manufacturers and other businesses. The Township’s five-year capital improvements schedule calls for the replacement of seven lift stations. The Township’s current industrial area, which covers nearly 500 acres, has room for the expansion of current businesses. The Township owns an additional 120 acres, which it plans to develop into an industrial park in the future; those plans depend on an expanded wastewater system.

Estimated cost: \$2.1 million

**City of Coopersville – Ottawa County – Wastewater Treatment System Improvements/
Continental Dairy Project**

The City of Coopersville is proposing an upgrade to its wastewater treatment system in order to accommodate the effluent from a new milk processing plant. The new plant will be built on a 128-acre site formerly owned by the Delphi Corporation. Other businesses could also locate at this site. Continental Milk Producers proposes to build a dairy plant which will process raw milk into dry milk powder, cream, and condensed milk for both domestic and international markets. The needed public infrastructure improvements to the system include an aeration system, blowers, pumps, clarifiers, sludge pumping system, berms/lagoons, a generator and a disinfection system.

Estimated cost: \$108.9 million

**Spring Lake Township and Chamber of Commerce – Ottawa County – Wilson Road
Industrial Park**

The area lacks large tracts of vacant land zoned industrial for expansion of existing businesses as well as attraction of new businesses to the community. This 88 acre parcel is municipally owned and zoned industrial. It is less than two miles from a major interstate, within five miles of a commercial port and a commercial airport. The property lacks infrastructure for industrial use, but currently the Township is contracting with a consultant to determine what the costs would be to extend all public and private utilities to the site, in addition to what potential road upgrades might be required.

Estimated cost: To be determined

Chamber of Commerce for Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg – Ottawa County – Innovation Center

Northwest Ottawa County is underserved by post secondary institutions, and exports a significant number of students to colleges and universities in the Region. In order to keep these high skilled workers in our community, we are proposing an Innovation Center where area colleges and universities will provide learning opportunities within our community. We have formed a partnership with the local Intermediate School District, two local school districts, the local Workforce Development Agency as well as area colleges and universities. We have identified a building that would serve our needs, but the colleges and universities do not want to invest in brick and mortar, but would be willing to provide funds for operations. Our challenge is to identify funds to acquire the facility, and renovate it to make it useful for teaching. We would also like to include incubator space in this facility to provide space for new business start-ups.

Estimated cost: \$12,000,000.00

Northwest Ottawa Chamber Foundation – Ottawa County – Bottoms Up Topsoil

Bottoms Up Topsoil is a product being marketed right now by a private company, taking dredge material from the commercial port and mixing it with leaves from the five units of government in Northwest Ottawa County. The topsoil has been sold primarily in bulk. There is a potential to create more sales by packaging the soil and retailing it to consumers. This would require the purchase of a shredder and packaging materials. It is anticipated that a new L 3 © organization will be formed involving the units of government, the private business and the Chamber of Commerce. This project helps keep the commercial port open, because it uses the dredge material, reduces the amount of leaves that go into a landfill and provides an opportunity to reuse the soil in a positive manner, while not taking up valuable riverfront real estate for prolonged periods of time, truly a win-win-win for all involved as well as the planet.

Estimated cost: \$1,150,000.00

City of Grand Haven – Ottawa County – Grand Landing LLC

This is a publically owned, but privately run hotel and conference center. In addition there will be a co-owned boardwalk as well as a retail and residential development. The hotel and conference center will cost \$39 million and represent about 15 percent of the physical space. The remaining \$61 million will be primarily residential and secondarily retail. The first phase of the project has been completed and includes a 3.5 story condo building with retail on the first floor.

Estimated Cost: \$100 million

Lakeshore Advantage & Michigan State University – Ottawa County – Michigan State University Bio-Economy Center

This project centers on a research facility donated by Pfizer to Michigan State University to promote research in bio-technology and promote the commercialization of research performed by researchers and students. The facility will also provide many training opportunities as well as space for a high tech business incubator. The donated facility is in excellent condition but will need some equipment replaced and upgraded. Additionally, the Center will need assistance with staffing a new Design Center for two years.

Estimated Cost: \$4.0 million

2008 Capital Improvement Projects

Grand Rapids and The Right Place, Inc. – Kent County – West Michigan Center for Green Technology

The new facility will be located in a renovated 10,000 square foot building in Richmond Hills Park, which is in the "GrandWalk" area within the Cities of Grand Rapids and Walker. The GrandWalk area has mostly older industrial sites as well as parks and residential neighborhoods. The entire area is in need of redevelopment and revitalization. The project building will be redeveloped to meet LEED certification standards and also supplement the park's natural and built features. The facility will be a demonstration project and also serve as a training center for sustainable and renewable energy – related to the manufacturing and maintenance of products. There will also be incubator space within the facility to encourage entrepreneurs to develop sustainable products and services.

Estimated Cost: \$4.0 million

Village of Edmore – Montcalm County – Sunrise Commerce Center

Hitachi Magnetics Corporation owned a 63 acre facility adjacent to the Village of Edmore. The site was donated to the Village and annexed by the Village. This proposed project will redevelop the 63 acre environmentally impaired site and redevelop it for industrial and commercial use.

Estimated Cost: \$3.55 million

City of Reed City – Osceola County – Business Incubator

This project involves the acquisition, development, and operation of a business incubator in Reed City. The City would establish a partnership with Ferris State University, the Michigan Small Business & Technology Center, and USDA Rural Development in order to provide start-up businesses with affordable space and support services.

Estimated Cost: \$800,000

City of Reed City – Osceola County – Industrial Park

The City of Reed City does not currently have an Industrial Park and neither does the surrounding Township. Work involves the acquisition of land and development of a Certified Industrial Park for Reed City. The Industrial Park would provide property suitable for development for manufacturing businesses and other industries.

Estimated Cost: \$1.2 million

Village of Marion – Osceola County – Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Improvements

The Village of Marion's wastewater treatment facilities are in need of upgrades to meet the future demands of the Village and the surrounding area and to allow businesses to expand and locate in the Village. Improvements include a meter for monitoring dissolved oxygen, additional equipment to ensure the facility is secure, repair and replacement of valves and pipelines at the facility, and repair of leaks in one of the paddies' leaking dykes.

Estimated Cost: \$3.0 million

City of Hudsonville – Ottawa County – Hudson Creek Crossings

This project consists of retail development of a 7.5 acre site. Current commercial and residential uses at that location convey a negative impression of the City. Proposed development includes a new retail anchor store in addition to a service station / convenience store, plus one to three out lots for more new commercial development.

Total Estimated Cost: \$12.0 million

2008 Planning Projects

WMRPC / The Right Place, Inc. – Kent County – Center for Green Technology Feasibility Study

This project will complete a feasibility study for the West Michigan Center for Green Technology (described under 2008 Capital Improvements).

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

City of Reed City – Osceola County – Industrial Park Feasibility Study

This study will determine the optimal size and location for Reed City's first Industrial Park, as well as estimate the cost of development.

Estimated Cost: \$80,000

City of Reed City – Osceola County – Trails Marketing Study

The White Pine Trail State Park and the Pere Marquette Trail intersect in downtown Reed City. The trails are used year round by bikers, hikers, skaters, skiers, and snowmobilers. The City is also currently working on the Depot Project, which is a \$900,000 staging area / visitor information center located at the intersection of the trails. The marketing study would develop marketing and promotion strategies for the City and its local businesses that serve tourists who use the recreation facilities.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

2007 EDA Targeted Community Projects – Allegan County

City of Holland – South End Street and Infrastructure Program

The City annexed 1,400 acres of neighboring Township property. The new Master Plan for this area identified six miles of new public streets that will be necessary to accommodate and guide new commercial, industrial, and residential development.

Estimated cost: \$1.5 million

City of Holland – Global Welcome Center, Holland Airport

Construction of a 11,000 square foot terminal building and offices for both the fixed base airport operator and corporate clients. The proposed facilities will contribute to meeting the global travel needs of existing and potential businesses in the Holland area.

Estimated cost: \$6.6 million

City of Otsego -- Water System Program

This project would improve and update the City's water system, providing better water pressure, fire protection, and circulation. The project would include construction of additional

water wells, enlargement of existing water mains, and the possible construction of an additional water tower.

Estimated cost: \$865,875

2007 EDA Targeted Community Projects – Ionia County

City of Portland / Danby Township – Development Site

The City of Portland and Danby Township wish to pursue the development of 58 acres. Possible uses include an industrial park.

Estimated cost: \$4.0 million

2007 EDA Targeted Community Projects – Kent County

City of Cedar Springs – West Street Extension and Industrial Park

West Street will be extended south to 16 Mile Road. This extension is necessary to relieve the traffic congestion on West Street and also to provide adequate access to the proposed industrial park (which will provide 63 acres of industrial lots).

Estimated cost: \$2,555,000

City of Grand Rapids – East Side Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements

The City is presently constructing Phase I of this project and has invested \$215 million in sewer separation on the City's east and west sides. Work for Phase II will consist of the continued construction of storm sewers in a large area of the City's east side to separate the combined sewer system.

Estimated cost: \$30.3 million

City of Grand Rapids – Grand Walk Sustainable Business Park

This project includes environmental site investigations, property acquisitions, infrastructure improvements, and design assistance consistent with "Green Building Council" standards to increase a 1,100 acre location's competitiveness and combat pressures of land use sprawl.

Estimated cost: \$11.0 million

City of Grand Rapids – Seward Avenue Extension

The extension of Seward Avenue (from Front/Wealthy Streets north to Leonard Street to Richmond Street, and long range, to Ann Street) is designed to create a north-south industrial connector street west of the US-131 Expressway. The purpose of the north-south connector is to improve access to industrial properties in the area and keep industrial traffic away from adjacent residential neighborhoods. The project is expected to leverage substantial private investment and result in additional industrial capacity and considerable job creation and/or retention.

Estimated cost: \$17.0 million

City of Grand Rapids – Steelcase Redevelopment Project

Steelcase, one of the City's major employers, will close all their manufacturing facilities located in the City, which will result in considerable loss in jobs and tax revenue. This project

will assist in the demolition of existing buildings and improve infrastructure to attract new development to this 100-acre site.

Estimated cost: \$14.0 million

City of Grand Rapids – Urban Land Assembly

This project will create a fund for the City to use to acquire blighted, contaminated, or underutilized land and buildings in order to secure sites for industrial expansion. Allocation of project funds will enable new and existing companies to expand and locate in the City, which will lead to the creation of new employment opportunities. The project will reduce the flight of businesses to greenfields and urban sprawl.

Estimated cost: \$4.0 million

City of Wyoming – Eastern Avenue Industrial Redevelopment

There are a large number of industrial buildings of varying sizes along Eastern Avenue. Some of the buildings are vacant and some are obsolete. In order to make this industrial area more viable for new uses, the City will: do spot demolition, consolidate properties, rehabilitate buildings, and upgrade utilities.

Estimated cost: \$2.5 million

City of Grand Rapids – Madison Square, South Town Redevelopment Project

The Madison Square neighborhood is the center of the South Town area and has been undergoing significant residential and commercial revitalization. One major catalyst project is the Hubb, which will convert a multistory industrial building into a commercial center with space for internet dependent businesses. Other area improvements will focus on the streetscape, street curbs, sidewalks, and landscaping. The industrial area at Cottage Grove Corridor will be integrated with the community to provide a more walkable environment.

Estimated cost: \$7.6 million

City of Wyoming – Kelvinator Site Redevelopment

This project will include complete or partial demolition, along with redevelopment, of property on a 35-acre site formerly used by a Kelvinator plant. There will also probably be Brownfield activity and new utilities needed.

Estimated cost: \$2.2 million

City of Wyoming – Chicago Drive Industrial Rehabilitation

Many businesses along Chicago Drive have very low valuation and employment. Redevelopment is greatly needed. This project would involve building demolition, removal of soil and water contamination, land filling, utility extensions, and other activities necessary to make property re-use feasible.

Estimated cost: \$2.0 million

City of Grand Rapids – Wealthy Jefferson Initiative

The Wealthy Jefferson Master Plan provides a framework for the redevelopment of 22 blocks of underutilized urban land. Upon completion, the project will contain over 500 new dwelling units, 75,000 square feet of retail space, 246,000 square feet of office space, and 40,000 square feet of light industrial use. The goal of this project is to promote mixed-use

development as a strategy for urban revitalization within a walkable neighborhood environment.

Estimated cost: \$12.0 million

City of Wyoming – Delphi Industrial Redevelopment

The Delphi Industrial Building has 1.8 million square feet of space and was formerly used by General Motors for manufacturing automobile components. Only the north portion of the building is currently being used. This project would involve demolition of the south one million square feet of the building and construction of a commercial grade street with utilities to accommodate industrial use lots.

Estimated cost: \$1,775,000

City of Grand Rapids – Relocation of Amtrak Station to the Rapid's Central Station

The current rail station does not have access to other transportation modes and its location has a negative impact on both rail passenger safety and local automobile traffic. This project will relocate the passenger rail line and the rail station to The Rapid's Central Station, which is a state-of-the-art multi-modal transit center. Project funds will provide for a track switch installation, several hundred feet of new track, platform and station construction, and related parking facilities.

Estimated cost: \$9.2 million

2007 EDA Targeted Community Projects – Mecosta County

Mecosta County Development Corporation/Morton Township – Mid-State Industrial Park Promotions

This planning project will develop and implement a targeted business recruitment program to attract new business to the Mid-State Industrial Park.

Estimated cost: \$50,000

City of Big Rapids – Street and Bridge Improvements

Improvements to the City's transportation network are essential for access to businesses. Improvements include: Replace Baldwin Street Bridge. Reconstruct Mill, Rust, and Sanborn Streets. Reconstruct Bjornson Street. Reconstruct Darwin Avenue. Resurface Ferris Drive. Reconstruct South Michigan Avenue. Many of these projects also include improvements to other infrastructure.

Estimated total cost: \$5.23 million

City of Big Rapids – Watermain Extensions

Extending water mains to underserved areas in and around the City provides additional opportunities for a variety of development. These projects include: DeKraff Street 12 inch water main. Creeks Edge water main. Nineteen Mile Road water main. Fourteen Mile Road water main. Fuller Street water main. Bjornson Street water main. Many of these projects also include improvements to other infrastructure.

Estimated total cost: \$8,163,000

Mecosta County Development Corporation – Value-Added Agricultural Research

The three phases of the Value-Added Agricultural Program are: 1) Identify local strengths and determine the types of projects that will work best with the existing agricultural base. 2) Develop a feasibility study for the top two or three projects. 3) Develop a business and marketing plan for a specific project.

Estimated cost: \$125,000

Mecosta County Development Corporation – High Speed Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure

Several local manufacturers have mentioned a disadvantage they experience due to lack of high-speed telecommunications capability. Access to high-speed telecommunications ability has become a critical factor in the daily operations of manufacturers as more customers expect and require that services be available over the internet. This project will explore the feasibility of providing fiber optic capability to rural manufacturers.

Estimated cost: \$300,000

2007 EDA Targeted Community Projects – Montcalm County

City of Greenville – Consumers Energy Substation Relocation Downtown Riverfront

The Consumers Energy Substation will be relocated away from its present location on the north side of the historic commercial downtown on the north side of Greenville. The substation is no longer needed in that area and the land could be better used for other development.

Estimated cost: \$1.0 million

City of Greenville – Consumers Energy Substation Relocation – Industrial Park

This project would locate a Consumers Energy substation in the Greenville Industrial Park in order to adequately supply the energy needs of new and existing manufacturers. The current local energy capacity is inadequate and the area has had multiple power failures recently that have had a debilitating effect on a vulnerable local economy.

Estimated cost: \$2.0 million

Village of Howard City – Waste Water Treatment Improvement Project. Install a mixed bed biofilm reactor; improve lift stations; replace 1,900 feet outdated sanitary main; implement substantial improvements to existing waste water treatment plant.

Estimated cost: \$2.7 million

City of Greenville – Waste Water Treatment Plant and Waste Water System Upgrades

Residential development and a new heavy industrial water user (United Solar Ovonic) has made it necessary to implement additional system improvements to the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant. The project will add a new trickling filter and a sludge storage tank and increase sanitary sewer line capacity to handle the additional waste water created by the anticipated job creation activities at the USO facility.

Estimated cost: \$3,156,500

2007 EDA Targeted Community Projects – Osceola County

City of Reed City – Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. Expand capacity of City's wastewater treatment plant from 0.92 mgpd to 1.8 mgpd.

Estimated cost: \$3,135,000

Osceola County – Kettunen Center Road Paving

The 4,600 feet road leading into the conference facility is in very poor condition. As a consequence, safety issues have resulted and the economic potential available to the community cannot be fully realized.

Estimated cost: \$180,000

Osceola County – Countywide Tourism Study. Osceola County's employment base is heavily dependent upon manufacturing and they have lost many manufacturing jobs. In response to those job losses, a group of concerned residents has determined that a countywide tourism and marketing study is a top priority.

Estimated cost: \$30,000

2007 Community Projects – Ionia County

City of Ionia – Ionia Regional Water Master Plan.

A water master plan is needed to accommodate development in the City of Ionia and the surrounding townships. The area is currently performing an intergovernmental water authority study.

Estimated cost: \$50,000

2007 Community Projects – Kent County

City of Grand Rapids – Urban Marketplaces Development

This project involves the rehabilitation and expansion of the existing City-owned Farmer's Market on Fulton Street to provide improved utility services to all rental stalls and weather protection roofing. Adjacent property would be acquired for parking and new restroom construction. Phase Two would create a year-round downtown marketplace combining a farmer's market and sales of locally crafted merchandise.

Estimated cost: \$2.0 million

City of Grand Rapids – Greening Infrastructure Project

This project will create the infrastructure improvement necessary to develop greening and beautification projects throughout the downtown and neighborhood business districts of Grand Rapids. Greening is being used as an economic engine for the revitalization of commercial areas. Elements will include irrigation, planter boxes, streetscape and design, and medians. A successful greening program is most likely through a comprehensive and coordinated plan that includes private and public entities and properties.

Estimated cost: \$1.5 million

City of Grand Rapids – Public Works Center for Leaf Composting and Storage of Inert Excavation Materials

This project will assemble land, rezone and develop an 80-acre public site for processing and operating of inert materials collection and storage; leaf and grass clipping composting facility; tree disposal site; all serving an urban region.

Estimated cost: \$225,000–300,000

2007 Community Projects – Mecosta County

City of Big Rapids – Habitat for Humanity Infrastructure Improvement

A portion of land has been donated to Habitat for Humanity by a private individual for the development of seven lots. Improvements needed for this project to proceed are street improvements and paving (\$120,000), water main (\$60,000), and sanitary sewer (\$120,000).

Total Estimated cost: \$300,000

City of Big Rapids – Storm Water Improvements

Growth and development put additional demands on the City to address drainage issues. The following projects are needed: Northeast City storms sewer. Ives stream bank stabilization. Division storm sewer replacement. Hemlock Street culvert repair. River Street stormwater pipe. Replace old storm sewers. Cedar Street storm water system upgrade. Many of these projects also include improvements to other infrastructure.

Estimated total cost: \$3,084,198

City of Big Rapids – Railroad Depot Restoration

The City's historic railroad depot is located along the State Rails to Trails system and is used as a staging area. Repairs need to be made due to vandalism. The City plans to purchase the property from the State and renovate it for use as a museum and retail, as part of its 150 Year Celebration.

Estimated cost: \$100,000

City of Big Rapids – Water Main Upgrades / Replacements

Maintaining and upgrading water mains in the City is essential for business growth. The following improvements are needed: Install 12" water main on Hunt Street. Replace undersized water mains citywide. Replace water mains on Winter and Chestnut. Replace 8" water mains with 12" water mains on Ferris State University campus. Replace water mains on Ives and South Streets. Replace water mains at Big Rapids Middle School. Replace water main on Mill Street. Replace water main on Darwin Street. Replace water mains on Ridgeview, Bailey, and Dexter. Replace water main on Ferris Drive. Many of these projects also include improvements to other infrastructure.

Estimated total cost: \$3,979,000

City of Big Rapids – Airport Runway Extension

Larger aircraft require a longer runway than is provided at Robin Hood Airport. The City needs to extend the existing runway from 4,300 to 5,001 feet. The increase in length will allow higher performance aircraft to land and take off. These aircraft support local companies.

Estimated cost: \$450,000

City of Big Rapids – New Street Construction

Extend Venlo Street north to Fuller Avenue. Provide north, south route to retail/business area located on Perry Avenue (M-20).

Estimated cost: \$200,000

City of Big Rapids – Utility Master Plan

Two service areas require master planning for either storm water system, sanitary, or water: 1) Northeast quadrant: All three utilities are lacking and planning is needed to determine the type of facilities, rationale, priority, and cost. 2) Determine need and system function for extension of drinking water system to serve customers west of US-131, north to 19 Mile Road.

Estimated cost: \$100,000

2007 Community Projects – Osceola County

Osceola County – Rose Lake Park Road Paving Project

Rose Lake Park, which is part of the County's park system, is very popular and operates at maximum capacity throughout the camping season. The result is excessive wear on the roads that makes it difficult to maintain acceptable road surface. This project will eliminate the need for grading and graveling and the problem of excessive dust.

Estimated cost: \$50,000

Osceola County – Crittenden Park Electric Project

Crittenden Park, part of the County's park system, needs to have electricity brought to 20 primitive sites in order to meet both existing and future demands.

Estimated cost: \$150,000

Osceola County – Rose Lake Park Electric Project

Rose Lake Park's electrical systems were adequate when they were installed, but modern trailers and recreational vehicles (with all their conveniences), often overload the system and have caused problems for park users. This project is designed to meet both current and future demands.

Estimated cost: \$155,000

Osceola County – Two Mile Road Upgrade

The Osceola County landfill reopened under new management. The purpose of this projects is to upgrade a two mile portion of 2 Mile Road that leads from old US-131 to the landfill.

Estimated cost: \$400,000

2007 Community Projects – Ottawa County

City of Holland – Holland Civic Center Renovation / Expansion

The City will hire professional services for the preparation of conceptual plans for the renovation and expansion of the City's Civic Center, a multi-purpose facility to be used for community events, community recreation, and multi-purpose trade and community shows.

Estimated cost: \$8.0 million

Projects Removed from the 2007-2009 Lists

- City of Holland – Allegan County –Waverly Industrial Park
- City of Belding – Ionia County – Storm and Sanitary Sewer Improvements
- City of Ionia – Ionia County – Southside River Development
- Village of Howard City – Montcalm County – Ensley Street / Federal Road Improvement.
- Allendale Charter Township – Ottawa County – Mohr Industrial Park
- City of Portland – Ionia County – Rear Business Facades
- City of Belding – Ionia County – Downtown Business District Revitalization
- City of Belding – Ionia County – Central Riverside Park Improvements
- City of Portland – Ionia County – Maple Street Reconstruction
- City of Portland – Ionia County – Pedestrian Trail Loop Completion
- City of Portland – Ionia County – Grand River Boardwalk
- City of Portland – Ionia County – Rowe Avenue Reconstruction
- City of Big Rapids – Mecosta County – River Street Park Improvement
- City of Big Rapids – Mecosta County – Riverwalk Phase III Bridge Extension
- Pierson Township – Amy School Road Industrial Park
- Pierson Township – Renaissance Zone
- Pierson Township – Henkle Road Improvement
- Osceola County – Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Osceola County – Homeowner Assistance Program
- City of Grand Rapids – Kent County – Monroe North
- City of Grand Rapids – Kent County – New Water Supply Line (Second Transmission Water Main) to the Franklin Reservoir
- City of Grand Rapids – Kent County – Joint Regional Biosolids Management

CONCLUSION

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) was one of the first Economic Development Districts to participate in the three-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process established by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2006-2007. Recognizing that a three year period is a long time to go without addressing the changing needs of the 199 governmental units in the seven county area served by Region 8, the WMRPC created a 2008 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 CEDS and this 2009 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 CEDS.

The overall strategy established in the 2007-2009 CEDS remains as the foundation of the three-year strategy. This Supplemental Report identifies several additional projects, provides up-to-date WMRPC and CEDS Committee information, lists three additional sets of goals and objectives, and keeps the CEDS Committee active during the entire three-year period. Additionally, the Progress Report is included, to provide readers with an understanding of all of the efforts the WMRPC has made to promote economic and community development in the first 30 months of the 36 month program.

2009 CEDS PROJECT RANKING
WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Applicant/Name (County) Project Description	EDA Eligibility	Employ- ment	Ratio of EDA Cost Share to Jobs Created	EDA Investment Guidelines	Regional Project Impact	Matching Funds	Cost Estimates	Utilities Availability	Owner- ship	WMRPC Member	Matches Community Goals	Private Sector Support	Regional Cooper- ation	Project Points Totals
City of Grand Rapids (Kent) Seward Avenue Improvements	2	20	5	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	5	5	5	79
City of Allegan (Allegan) Water Treatment Facility Improvements	2	20	5	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	5	5	5	79
City of Greenville (Montcalm) Wastewater Treatment Plant	4	15	5	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	5	5	5	76
City of Big Rapids (Mecosta) Wastewater Treatment Improvements	2	10	5	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	5	0	5	64
Lakeshore Advantage (Ottawa) MSU Bio-Economy Center	2	10	4	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	0	5	5	63
City of Evert (Osceola) Evert Air Industrial Park Expansion	2	10	3	5	5	3	2	7	5	5	5	3	5	60
City of Belding (Ionia) Wastewater System Capacity Improvements	2	5	5	3	3	5	5	7	5	5	5	3	5	58
Spring Lake Township (Ottawa) Wastewater Treatment Improvements	2	5	4	4	5	5	5	7	5	5	5	0	5	57
City of Holland (Allegan) 48th Street Corporate Development	2	25	5	5	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	57
City of Ionia (Ionia) Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	2	5	4	3	3	5	5	7	5	5	5	0	5	54
City of Grand Rapids (Kent) Life Science Research Incubator	2	10	5	5	5	0	2	7	2	5	5	0	5	53
City of Holland (Allegan) Replace Instrument Landing System	2	5	4	5	5	2	2	7	5	5	5	0	5	52
City of Coopersville	2	4	1	5	5	5	2	7	5	5	0	5	5	51

2009 CEDS PROJECT RANKING
WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Applicant/Name (County) Project Description	EDA Eligibility	Employ- ment	Ratio of EDA Cost Share to Jobs Created	EDA Investment Guidelines	Regional Project Impact	Matching Funds	Cost Estimates	Utilities Availability	Owner- ship	WMRPC Member	Matches Community Goals	Private Sector Support	Regional Cooper- ation	Project Points Totals
(Ottawa) Wastewater Treatment System Improvements – Continental Dairy Project														
City of Plainwell (Allegan) Employment Center	2	5	4	5	5	0	2	7	5	5	5	0	5	50
City of Belding (Ionia) Water Main Upgrades	2	5	5	3	3	0	5	7	5	5	5	0	5	50
Dorr Township (Allegan) Wastewater Improvements	2	4	4	3	1	2	5	7	5	5	0	0	5	43
City of Holland (Allegan) Tulip City Airport	2	1	0	4	5	0	2	7	5	5	5	0	5	41
Village of Marion (Osceola) Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	2	3	2	2	3	5	2	6	5	5	0	0	5	40
City of Grand Haven (Ottawa) Grand Landing LLC	2	5	0	3	3	0	5	7	5	5	0	0	3	38
City of Holland (Allegan/Ottawa) Fiber Optic Build-Out	2	5	4	5	4	0	0	7	5	5	0	0	0	37
NW Ottawa Chamber (Ottawa) Bottoms Up Topsoil	2	1	0	2	4	5	5	7	0	5	0	0	5	36
Spring Lake Township (Ottawa) Wilson Road Industrial Park	2	4	0	2	5	0	2	7	5	5	0	0	1	33
City of Fennville DDA (Allegan) Business Incubator	2	0	0	5	5	0	0	7	5	5	0	0	1	30
City of Fennville DDA (Allegan) Train Station	2	0	0	4	4	0	0	7	5	5	0	0	3	30
Chamber of Commerce (Ottawa) Innovation Center	2	0	0	4	3	0	2	7	2	5	0	0	5	30