
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Committee Minutes

July 20, 2021

10 am to 12 pm

MEDC – 300 N. Washington Sq. Lansing, MI 48913
Lake Michigan Conference Room and
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Members Present & Location of Virtual Attendance:

Tom Lutz, Warren, Macomb County, MI

Dave Meador, Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County, MI

Chris MacInnes, Benzie County, Thompsonville, MI

Fay Beydoun, Farmington Hills, MI

April Clobes, East Lansing, MI

Bobby Hopewell, Kalamazoo, MI

Kyle Caldwell, Cannon Township, MI

Krista Flynn, Grand Rapids, MI

Fritz Erickson, Lansing, MI

Jeff Noel, Benton Charter Township, MI

Ryan Waddington, Washtenaw County

Phil Shaltz, Flint, MI

Awenate Cobbina, Lansing, MI

Mike McLaughlan, Grosse Pointe, MI

Scott Newman-Bale, Elk Rapids, Antrim
County, MI

Ryan Waddington, Webster Township, MI

Sheldon Neeley, Flint, MI

Bill Pink, Grand Rapids, Kent County, MI

Members Absent:

Lizabeth Ardisana

Staff Present:

Amiee Evans

Steve Bakkal

Lynne Feldpausch

Josh Hundt

Michele Wildman

Katie Smith

Jill Trepkoski

Christin Armstrong

Greg Bird

Brad Heffner

Doug Kuiper

Amanda Bright McClanahan

Linda Ascitutto

David Meninga

Courtney Overbey

Kathy Achtenberg

I. Call to order

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He requested that Ms. Armstrong provide any necessary communications. A roll call was performed to determine attendance and a quorum was declared present. The meeting was in the Lake Michigan Room at 300 N. Washington Square in Lansing Michigan. Members of the Executive Committee, MEDC staff, and the general public could also participate virtually via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Cobbina invited any public comment, there was none.

III. Chairman's Report

- a. Mr. Cobbina welcomed the Executive Committee to the first hybrid meeting and welcomed Mr. Messer to the MEDC.
- b. Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any questions, changes, or corrections regarding the May 18, 2021, minutes. There were none. *Mr. Sheldon Neeley moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021, meeting and Mr. Kyle Caldwell supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 18 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*
- c. Mr. Cobbina noted that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee chair position has been vacant since the resignation of Jeff Donofrio. He noted that Dr. Bill Pink and Dave Meador have agreed to chair the subcommittee as co-chairs. *Ms. Krista Flynn moved to approve the co-chairs of the strategic planning subcommittee and Ms. Fay Beydoun supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 18 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*
- d. Mr. Cobbina provided an update on the planning for the September meeting. He noted that MEDC staff would follow up to gain the Committee's interest and availability to attend a September meeting in person.

IV. CEO Report

Mr. Messer thanked and acknowledged the board for their support throughout the first month of his appointment. He provided an update on the CNBC Top States for Business and noted that Michigan rebounded 13 places to #11 from the #24 spot in 2019. He noted that this is an important ranking to keep an eye on and wants Michigan to improve in the coming years. He also noted that as he continues to orient to the organization, he is committed on focusing on a sustained revenue source, developing attractive places and facilities, building a fence around Michigan companies and talent, innovation, leadership, and will continue to have high expectations to meet the needs of our clients. He also noted that he wants Michigan to become a top 5 state economically by 2046 and by 2026, Michigan should win at least 85% of all direct competitive business attraction projects against states that border the Great Lakes.

At 11:09 am, Bill Pink left the meeting.

V. Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee

Mr. Noel and Ms. Lynne Feldpausch provided an update on the return to onsite work for MEDC employees. Ms. Feldpausch noted that five workgroups were instituted to provide recommendations to the executive leadership team on organizational culture, policies, training and communication, facilities, and IT resources. These groups provided

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recommendations to executive leadership in early July. The executive leadership team has reviewed the recommendations and has approved the teams to begin moving forward on implementation of the recommendations with a return to onsite work plan slated for September 7, 2021.

- VI.** Mr. Cobbina asked if there was any additional discussion for the Executive Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.