



# MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## Executive Committee Meeting Adopted Minutes

January 20, 2015

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Lansing, Michigan

### Members present:

Lizabeth Ardisana	Jeff Noel
Mary Lou Benecke	Greg Northrup
Robert Collier	Chris Rizik
Cindy Larsen	Doug Rothwell
Jeff Metts	Anmar Sarafa
Tom Moran	Marilyn Schlack
Scott Newman-Bale	Dayne Walling

### Members present via phone:

John Brown

David Meador

David Sowerby

### Members absent:

David Armstrong

Stephen Forrest

Gerald Poisson

**MEDC staff present:** Steve Arwood, Jennifer Nelson, Doug Smith, Karla Campbell, Amy Banninga, Melanie Brown, Lynne Feldpausch, Joel Freeman, Brad Heffner, Val Hoag, Carsten Hohnke, Minesh Mody, Emily Palsrok, Andrea Robach, Greg Tedder, Tony Vernaci and Elaine Jaworsky.

### Call to order

Mr. Rothwell called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. The meeting was held at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, 300 N. Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan.



## Public Comment

Mr. Rothwell asked if anyone in attendance would like to provide public comment. There was none. A document which was sent to the Committee by Scott Atchison regarding rebranding Kent County was distributed to the members.

## Chairman's Report

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting. *It was moved by Mr. Noel and seconded by Ms. Schlack. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Rothwell spoke to the Committee regarding Mr. Finney's reassignment to the Governor's office. He congratulated him on his new position, and acknowledged his many contributions to the MEDC.

Mr. Rothwell reintroduced Mr. Arwood to the Committee reiterating his outstanding background in economic development as well as his experience with the legislature and private sector. He noted that due to time constraints, Mr. Arwood's contract will be presented at the next meeting and will be retroactive to today's date. Mr. Rothwell then asked the Committee to consider the resolution for Appointment of CEO. A motion was made to approve the Appointment of Steve Arwood CEO. *It was moved by Mr. Collier and seconded by Mr. Moran. Motion passed unanimously.*

## CEO Update

Mr. Arwood distributed an organization chart showing the new structure of the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED) and discussed the MEDC's placement as well its role and interaction with the other departments on the chart. The Committee discussed.

*[Mr. Newman-Bale arrives]*

Mr. Arwood introduced the MEDC's new COO, Jennifer Nelson and provided her background. He stated that there will be no major changes to the strategic plan. The Committee discussed.

Mr. Arwood stated that he will be conducting retention visits with companies headquartered in Michigan throughout the year. He also noted that he will be involved in legislative activities as well as pursuing more input from the CDC and local partners. He stated that we will stay the course and improve focus. The Committee discussed.





Crossing Agreement. This financing framework agreement requires the Michigan Strategic Fund to pay or cause to be paid the escrow agent's fees. The Committee discussed and a *motion was made to approve the Resolution Funding Approval for Escrow Agent Fees. It was moved by Mr. Northrup and seconded by Mr. Rizik. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Corporate Benefit Rates – 2015**

Ms. Feldpausch provided information regarding the benefit rates for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. After Committee discussion a *motion was made to approve the Resolution – Michigan Economic Development Corporation Health, Vision and Dental Benefits Plans. It was moved by Mr. Rothwell and seconded by Mr. Walling. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Open Discussion**

The Michigan Prospectus was distributed to the Committee. Mr. Arwood introduced Mr. Tony Vernaci, our new Vice President of Business Attraction, and Mr. Vernaci provided his background. The Committee also discussed the July Retreat and it was determined that depending on the location, an overnight stay would be fine.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.