



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Committee Minutes

January 14, 2025

Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 N. Washington Square, Lansing MI 48913
or via Zoom

Members Present:

Beth Ardisana
Awenate Cobbina
Krista Flynn
Sarah Gonzalez
Fadwa Hammoud
Mike McLauchlan

Sheldon Neeley
Bill Pink
Gina Jacquart Thorsen
Renee Tomina
Carla Walker-Miller

Members Absent:

Bobby Hopewell
Tom Lutz
Bob McMahan

Lajune Montgomery Tabron
Santa Ono
Bob Sutherland

Staff Present:

Christin Armstrong
Steve Bakka
Lavonne Blonde
Christina DeGrow

Amiee Evans
Quentin Messer
Leasa Sanchez
Jill Trepkoski

I. Call to order

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. He requested that Ms. DeGrow provide any necessary communications. There were no communications. A roll call was performed to determine attendance. A quorum was not present. The meeting was held at Michigan Economic Development Corporation, 300 N. Washington Square, Lansing MI 48913.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Cobbins invited public comment. Ms. DeGrow facilitated and public comment was had.

III. Chairman's Report

Mr. Cobbina adjusted the agenda due to lack of quorum and provided an update on the 2025 meeting schedule, the most noticeable change being the removal of the late May meeting to due scheduling conflicts.

Mayor Neeley joins the meeting 10:15.





Mr. Cobbina noted part of the reasoning for deficient quorum is the resignation of Kyle Caldwell, in July 2024 and most recently, Mayor Bliss and Brian Rich. Mr. Cobbina thanked them for their service and wished them well in future endeavors. He is hopeful we will have a full committee within the next two meetings as he is engaged with the Governor's Appointments Office to fill the vacancies.

IV. Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee Report

Mr. Cobbina requested Ms. Flynn provide an update on behalf of the Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee. Ms. Flynn indicated the subcommittee met in early January to discuss the annual CEO performance evaluation process and timeline. The P & C Subcommittee will initiate a 360-degree CEO performance evaluation survey to Executive Committee Members, Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members, The Governor and her COO as well as Quentin's direct reports for completion. The survey will be distributed, with all necessary instructions, on January 31st with the month of February to complete. All responses will be compiled and presented during closed session at the March 11, 2025, meeting.

V. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

Mr. Cobbina requested Dr. Pink provide a Strategic Planning subcommittee update. Dr. Pink advised they had not met recently but Rebecca Craig and Steve Bakkal have been great in providing additional information identifying carry-over funding for metrics discussed at the November 19, 2024, meeting around interns and interns placed. Updated information was provided with the meeting materials.

VI. CEO Report

Mr. Messer expressed gratitude on behalf of himself and colleagues, to the committee members for their continued participation on the MEDC Executive Committee. Mr. Messer provided highlights of FY2024 accomplishments as well as continued work on our economic development strategy of attracting and developing People, cultivating revitalizing Places, and competing for, and winning, Projects.

Renee Tomina joined the meeting at 10:36am.

Quorum now present, pause CEO Report for action items.

VII. Chairman's Report, action items

- a. Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any questions, changes, or corrections to the November 19, 2024, minutes. There were none. *Carla Walker-Miller moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, meeting and Beth Ardisana supported the motion. A vote was taken with 11 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Mr. Cobbina mentioned we have a new voice on the other end of today's voting, Christina DeGrow. Christina, MEDC Senior Corporate Council, has been apprenticing under Christin Armstong for the past two meetings and in today's



materials you'll find a resolution appointing Christina DeGrow as the MEDC Executive Committee Secretary. Mr. Cobbina then acknowledged Christin Armstrong, who has served as the Committee's secretary since 2018, will be stepping down due to a promotion to Senior Vice President, Business Development Programs and Execution. Committee Members thanked Christin for her dedication and service to the Committee. Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any additional discussions necessary. There were none. *Krista Flynn moved to approve the resolution appointing Christina DeGrow as MEDC Executive Committee Secretary and Sheldon Neeley supported the motion. A vote was taken with 11 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Dr. Pink departs the meeting at 10:45am.
Return to CEO Report.*

VIII. CEO Report

Mr. Messer continued his presentation providing examples of Place, Projects, and State accomplishments, including securing a spot in the top 10 states for doing business, Mackinac Island earned #1 best summer destination, U.P. being named #1 destination to see fall colors, to name a few. With the upcoming changes in political landscape, both in Washington and Michigan, we will continue our focus on the Make It In Michigan Strategy focusing on People, Place and Projects. Work remains but we are remarkably enthusiastic about the possibilities.

Dr. Pink rejoins the meeting at 10:52am.

IX. Open Discussion

Mr. Cobbina opened the meeting for discussion. Being none, he advised our next meeting will be in Lansing, on March 11, 2025. A virtual option will be provided for those unable to attend in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56am.