



**MICHIGAN ECONOMIC**  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Executive Committee Minutes**

March 11, 2025

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

**Members Present:**

Beth Ardisana  
Brooke Beebe<sup>1</sup>  
Awenate Cobbina  
Krista Flynn  
Sarah Gonzalez  
Kelly Hall  
Fadwa Hammoud

Bobby Hopewell  
Tom Lutz  
Mike McLauchlan  
Bob McMahan  
Sheldon Neeley  
Bob Sutherland  
Renee Tomina

**Members Absent:**

LaJune Montgomery Tabron  
Santa Ono  
Bill Pink

Gina Jacquart Thorsen  
Carla Walker-Miller

**Staff Present:**

Christin Armstrong  
Steve Bakkal  
Lavonne Blonde  
Christina DeGrow  
Amiee Evans

Lynne Feldpausch  
Michelle Grinnell  
Markie Justice  
Quentin Messer  
Jill Trepkoski

**I. Call to order**

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He requested that Ms. DeGrow provide any necessary communications. Communications were received and distributed to the Executive Committee. A roll call was performed to determine attendance. A quorum was present. The meeting was held at Michigan Economic Development Corporation, 300 N. Washington Square, Lansing MI 48913.

**II. Public Comment**

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

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Beebe's oath of office was pending filing with the Office of the Great Seal as of March 11, 2025. As such, vote totals for all actions reflect 11, 12, or 13 members of the Executive Committee, respectively.



### **III. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any edits or changes to the meeting minutes from January 14, 2025. There were none. *Sarah Gonzales moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025, meeting and Bobby Hopewell supported. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes, 0 nay votes, 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Cobbina noted that we will be combining the May and July meetings with the July Retreat on July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additional details to follow, however, this time is already held on your calendars, and we encourage everyone to come in person. The annual retreat is traditionally in-person with no virtual option.

Mr. Cobbina advised that Ms. Gina Thorsen, of Stormy Kromer, recently submitted her resignation. It has been a pleasure working with her on the Executive Committee and we wish her the best. He also warmly welcomed two new members, Ms. Brooke Beebe of Hemlock Semiconductor, and Ms. Kelly Hall of Consumer Energy. Ms. Beebe and Ms. Hall both addressed the committee. Mr. Cobbina assigned Ms. Beebe to the Audit & Governance Subcommittee and Ms. Hall to the Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee.

### **IV. Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cobbina requested that Ms. Flynn provide an update on behalf of the Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee. Ms. Flynn provided an overview of the CEO evaluation process and summarized the survey response rate.

#### **Resolution Authorizing Closed Session**

Mr. Cobbina noted that Mr. Messer requested a closed session to review and discuss his performance. *Krista Flynn moved to authorize the closed session and Fadwa Hammoud supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 13 aye votes and 0 nay votes. The resolution was passed unanimously.*

*Closed Session began at 10:59 am and ended at 11:42 am.*

*Bobby J. Hopewell departs the meeting at 10:50am*

#### **CEO Performance Evaluation**

Mr. Cobbina provided an overview of the closed-session discussions regarding the CEO's performance evaluation. He noted that the survey results and the Executive Committee supported that Mr. Messer earned a meets expectation rating and determined it was appropriate to authorize the Chairperson to execute an increase of up to 2.5% to Mr. Messer's base salary and consider a performance bonus up to 6.6% in the next 60 days. *Krista Flynn moved to approve the salary increase and bonus as discussed, and Beth Ardisana supported the motion. A vote was taken with 12 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*



*Sarah Gonzales departs the meeting at 11:50am*

**Finance Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cobbina requested Ms. Ardisana provide a Finance Subcommittee update. Ms. Ardisana presented, and requested approval of, the 2026 budget timeline. With no questions, *Beth Ardisana moved to approve the 2026 budget timeline and Krista Flynn supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 11 aye votes and 0 nay votes. The resolution was passed unanimously.*

**V. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cobbina requested, in Dr. Pink's absence, a Strategic Planning Subcommittee update. Mr. Messer provided the update noting the committee met recently to discuss big picture strategy as well as activities happening macroeconomically. Working toward and looking forward to the July retreat where we can be sure the MEDC is responsive to facts on the ground. More information and pre-work exercises will be forthcoming.

**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 our continued work on our economic development strategy of attracting and developing People, cultivating and revitalizing Places, and competing for, and winning, Projects, as well as MEDC's presence in each of the 10 prosperity regions across the state.

**VII. Open Discussion**

Mr. Cobbina opened the meeting for discussion. Mr. Cobbina noted that this will be Lynne Feldpausch's last meeting due to her upcoming retirement. Mr. Cobbina wished her well and thanked her for her service to the MEDC and the Executive Committee. Mr. Cobbina advised the next meeting is the annual retreat taking place in Traverse City on July 21 and 22. This meeting will be an in-person meeting, with no virtual option.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm.