

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
ECWRPC Offices
July 30, 2008

Kimberly Berg	.....	Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, OEA
Bob O'Donnell	.....	UW Oshkosh, Small Business Development Center
Helen Nagler	.....	ECWRPC Commissioner/Outagamie County Board
David Thiel	.....	Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation
Jim Resick	.....	Outagamie County UW-Extension
Christian Tscheshlok	.....	Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation
Mike Hendrick	.....	Outagamie County Planning Department
Adam Delikowski	.....	Valley Homebuilders Association
Rich Scheurman	.....	Private Citizen
Bill Wheeler	.....	Tri-County Regional Economic Development Corporation
Cheryl Welch	.....	Fox Valley Workforce Development Board
Kara Homan	.....	ECWRPC
Tom Baron	.....	ECWRPC

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting began at approximately 9:00 am.

2. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Homan asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, and what organization they represent.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: JACK PRICE, EDA

Jack Price from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) presented information about EDA via telephone. His comments focused on EDA project funding criteria, EDA's focus on economically distressed areas, previous EDA projects within the region, and studies for the CEDS Strategy Committee to review. Jack noted that the area to receive funding doesn't have to be distressed, as long as the project would provide some service to a distressed area. Jack also said that EDA likes projects that have a regional approach and have a technology component to them. Additionally, Jack commented on a Revolving Loan Fund as a possibility for EDA funding. Jack then took questions from the group that ranged from the eligibility requirements of groups that can receive EDA funding, to feasibility study questions, and examples of regionally innovative projects that they have funded. To receive EDA funding a group has to be a non-profit organization or a unit of government. Feasibility studies can fall within a business incubator project. An example of an EDA funded project is a market analysis for the timber industry in Door County.

After Jack Price's presentation the group discussed the issues that were brought up. It was stated that EDA can act quickly in responding to economic problems, and that the transition from old to new economy jobs does not have as significant wage reductions as typically perceived. Discussion also involved conducting an incubator feasibility study, and that EDA most often funds recovery type projects.

4. POTENTIAL PROJECTS

The group focused discussion on potential projects for the region. Healthcare clusters were considered a priority along with research facilities. It was noted that the Caddy Center in Racine, WI is a research facility that Johnson & Johnson uses to transfer patented technology that they do not plan to use to small business for further research and development. Energy innovation industries and specialty papers are potential areas for development. Agriculture is seen as having multiple components of strength and development. They include producing energy, food production and packaging, and research (pharmaceuticals). The Dairy 2020 plan focuses on using digesters for creating energy at large animal facilities. Discussion also involved the lack of midpoint between a small (garage) business and becoming a large facility.

6. REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISION, GOALS, STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

The group concluded that only goals should be prioritized from the East Central WI RPC's Economic Development portion of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. It was felt that there were too many strategies and recommendations, and that the goals do a good job of summarizing the vision that is desired. Before the next meeting, the group should select their choice of the top five goals.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.