

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COMMISSION

K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

The *Annual Report* of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties functions as a brief analysis of the external circumstances and internal dynamics that influence the region's economy.

Each year, the Southwestern Michigan Commission requests the submittal of proposed economic development projects from local governments and/or economic developers for inclusion in the CEDS. (*Attachments 1 and 2*) Although this does not determine applicant eligibility or ensure funding, this process is required for a project to receive EDA consideration and to ensure eligibility for the ten percent district bonus. These economic development projects as well as other development projects will be listed for informational purposes to promote intergovernmental communication and as a resource to measure regional economic development progress. (*Attachments 3 and 4*)

CEDS OVERSIGHT

SWMC Board Membership and Representation

The Southwestern Michigan Commission (SWMC) Board is selected to represent county, city, village, and township officials, in addition to citizen members who represent a variety of interests, including business, seniors, and minorities. The CEDS Committee is comprised of members of the SWMC board as well as economic developers from each county. (*Attachment 5*)

Van Buren County's SWMC board representation currently has two vacancies, a Michigan Townships' Association representative and a citizen representative. Berrien and Cass counties are currently represented in all eligible capacities. Of the forty current appointments, fifteen of the members are female and ten of the members are from a minority group. (*Attachment 6*)

SWMC Board Officers

SWMC Board officers are selected with the intent to provide representation for each of the region's counties. James Sayer of Cass County is serving his second one-year term as Chairman of the Southwestern Michigan Commission. Tom Tanczos is a Van Buren County Commissioner and serves as the Vice Chairman of the SWMC. Don Gast is a Berrien County Commissioner and serves as the board treasurer, Yemi Akinwale of Berrien County is the assistant treasurer, and Frances Sage of Van Buren County is the board secretary.

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee, which oversees all management and operations, is currently comprised of the five officers, and six additional appointees to provide leadership opportunities. The Administration Committee includes four members who are female and two members who are from a minority group. This CEDS is distributed to area economic developers and supporting agencies/organizations for their comments and input prior to SWMC approval.

REVIEW PROCESS

The *2005 CEDS Annual Report* is reviewed by each the following and is reviewed and accepted through formal action by each of the county boards of commissioners and the SWMC board.

- Berrien County
 - Economic Development Department
 - County Finance Committee
 - Board of Commissioners
- Cass County
 - Board of Commissioners
- Van Buren County
 - Economic Development
 - Michigan State University Extension
 - Board of Commissioners
- Southwestern Michigan Commission (Administration Committee and full board)

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The goals of the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) were established by the CEDS Committee in 2000 to direct program activities and address the region's economic circumstances. The 2005 CEDS Committee updated these goals to reflect the region's changing economic environment. Projects received in response to the "Call for Projects" process are reviewed and ranked in accordance with prescribed criteria to determine how closely they adhere to, and advance, the regional goals for economic development. (*See Attachment 7 for criteria*) Projects outside the scope of possible EDA funding are included in the annual report for regional development informational purposes. The goals established in 2005 are as follows:

1. Retain, expand, and attract jobs at every economic level.
2. Reduce unemployment and poverty, especially in areas of greatest distress.
3. Coordinate partnerships to develop educational opportunities and job skills training to improve the quality of the local work force.
4. Acknowledge transportation as an impediment to steady employment and encourage development of mixed-income housing in close proximity to job centers.
5. Strengthen regional and recreational tourism through protection and enhancement of natural amenities such as groundwater, shoreline, and natural habitats.
6. Preserve and promote agriculture as a competitive industry including value-added agriculture and agri-tourism.
7. Encourage residential development into areas accessible to infrastructure.
8. Rehabilitate unsafe, aging, and insufficient infrastructure and encourage creation of new infrastructure when appropriate.
9. Encourage commercial and residential urban redevelopment.
10. Alleviate local government fiscal limitations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

During 2005, the SWMC maintained its partnership with Michigan State University Extension offices, educators, county planning departments, economic development practitioners, Michigan's Department of Transportation, and others in bringing education and training opportunities to southwestern Michigan relative to sustainable development. The complete SWMC Community and Economic Development Work Program for 2005 is appended as *Attachment 6*.

New partnerships have been developed between MichiganWorks! and other organizations that provide job opportunities in the region. Through surveys that the Commission has conducted, it is evident that transportation difficulties are a prominent reason for underemployment. Developing strategies to alleviate transportation impediments has become a regional economic development goal.

The SWMC also assisted several communities in the development of their parks and recreation planning. The Commission prepared a Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant for the City of Bangor to develop a pedestrian and heritage river trail that has been developed in its Parks and Recreation Plan.

Tri-County Planners, a regional association of which SWMC is a member, continued to sponsor regional workshops on planning, zoning, smart growth, and related topics to further education and advocacy for sustainable development. Association members include planning staff, economic developers, or directors from the three Counties, as well as representatives of the City of Niles, Michigan State University Extension Offices, Cass Conservation District, and Michigan Townships Association. Workshops are held locally at a reduced cost to promote greater participation.

CHANGES IN POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Population

After recording a population decline between 1980 and 1990, the 2000 U.S. Census reported the total population of the region (Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties) increased by 8,905 persons, or 3.2 percent between 1990 and 2000, which was considerably less than the state of Michigan's growth rate of 6.9 percent during the same period. The estimated population for the state of Michigan was estimated to have grown another 1.8 percent between 2000 and 2004. Regionally, population *estimates* in 2004 indicate another 1.6 percent increase in the region since 2000. As of 2004, Berrien County remains the most populated of the three counties with an *estimated* 163,125 people, an increase of .4 percent since 2000. Cass County was *estimated* to have a population of 51,761 in 2004, a 1.3 percent increase, and Van Buren County was *estimated* to have a population of 78,541, an increase of 3 percent.

Unemployment

The average annual unemployment rate declined in all three counties between June 2003 and June 2004; however, the unemployment rate in June 2005 has increased. The average unemployment rates and work force data is compared in the following table for the time period between June 2003 and June 2005.

The southwestern Michigan regional labor force showed a net increase of 1,007 workers between June 2004 and June 2005, with Van Buren County experiencing the greatest growth with 3,803 additional workers. Cass County experienced the greatest increase in unemployment rates, up from 4.0 percent to 4.7 percent. The State of Michigan's unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percent for the same period, from 7.0 percent to 6.9 percent.

Local municipalities in the region continue to be concerned with high unemployment rates, especially in some sectors. In 2001, the City of Benton Harbor, in Berrien County, reported an annual average unemployment rate of 23.9 percent. As of October 2003 this rate

had increased to 27.8 percent, by September 2004, the unemployment rate decreased to 25.5 percent, still far above the state, regional, and county levels for the same time period.

County and Regional Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

Area	June 2003		June 2004		June 2005		Difference 2004-2005	
	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate
Berrien	82,650	7.6%	83,825	6.8%	79,696 *	7.0%*	-4,129*	+ .2%*
Cass	26,525	5.2%	26,775	4.0%	28,108	4.7%	+1,333	+ .7%
Van Buren	36,825	7.4%	36,850	6.6%	40,653	6.4%	+3,803	- .2%
Southwest Region	146,000	6.7%	147,450	5.8%	148,457	6.0%	+1,007	+ .2%
Michigan	5,066,000	7.3%	5,075,000	7.0%	5,154,891	6.9%	+79,891	- .1%

Source: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth/Office of Labor Market Information
<http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/159lf04.htm>.

2004 Data:

Berrien <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/021lf04.htm>;

Cass <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/027lf04.htm>;

Van Buren <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/159lf04.htm>

*** As of 2005, MDLEG identifies Berrien County as Berrien County, MI (Niles-Benton Harbor, MI Metropolitan Statistical Area). Cass and Van Buren Counties have not changed – unemployment rates are only available on county levels.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ACTIVITIES (2004-2005)

Services provided by the SWMC are primarily in the areas of project development, grant writing, grant administration, and data distribution. Other related efforts include recreation planning, training and instruction, public outreach, state and federal liaison activities, (including U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and other partnership opportunities when possible.

Master Plan Developments

Over the last year the SWMC has assisted Pipestone Township (Berrien County) and the City of Buchanan (Berrien County) in preparing new master plans for their communities. Both documents will be completed by the fall of 2005. Each master plan that the SWMC produces creates a blueprint for progress and development over the next ten years in that community.

The SWMC will begin preparing a recreation plan for Cass County in the fall of 2005. The plan will seek to establish a unified vision for recreational resources in Cass County.

The master and recreation planning process allows communities to refine their strategies of capital expenditure and focus their grant acquisition efforts. Rather than isolated, disconnected improvements over time, the planning process produces the foundation for communities to link their improvements for unified results toward a common shared vision.

Transportation Planning and Studies

The SWMC works to improve transportation throughout southwest Michigan. In the spring of 2005, Van Buren County requested the SWMC to conduct a study of their county-wide public transportation system. The SWMC will research the resources available to Van Buren County and provide a plan to use those resources in the most efficient way possible to deliver public transportation to their citizens. The study will be completed in the fall of 2005.

The SWMC manages the region's Rideshare program to link those willing to share their commute with those who need a ride. It is clear that transportation is a vital link for those seeking employment in southwest Michigan. Many times transportation is the only piece that is missing between jobs and the unemployed. Rideshare is another critical strand in the transportation fabric of the region.

Grant Writing

Recreation

In 2005, the SWMC applied successfully for a grant to the City of Bangor for the Black River Heritage Trail and Boardwalk. The grant sought to implement a portion of the City's Recreation Plan that included the development of a recreation trail and the use of the river itself as a canoe trail. This success will bring residents of Bangor back to the Black River and tourists into Bangor from outside the City.

Community Development Block Grants

The SWMC provides grant administration services for several Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) in southwest Michigan. The SWMC administers a CDBG through which Benton Charter Township has developed a new main access road to the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. The SWMC also wrote and is currently administering two CDBGs for the City of Bangor, one for the redevelopment of a train depot in the downtown, and another for the redevelopment of critical infrastructure in a portion of the downtown.

Federal and State Clearinghouse

The SWMC is the regional clearinghouse for all grant applications that originate in the three-county area. When a community or individual applies for a State or federal grant, the forms ultimately are received by the SWMC and distributed to potentially interested parties to give comment or critique on the proposed project. This is a vital connection between grant applicants, potential affected parties, and the grantors.

Michigan Information Data Center Reporting

The SWMC compiles an Affiliates Annual Report to the Michigan Information Data Center of activity in response to information requests.

GIS/Mapping

Mapping is a regular component of the planning work that the SWMC completed in 2005. Maps to identify regions deserving of special consideration for environmental justice were prepared for the Niles and Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Maps are being developed to identify resources throughout the region for non-motorized transportation. For tourism, recreation, and basic transportation purposes an SWMC map has been commissioned by the Michigan Department of Transportation to identify trails and economic resources accessible by those using the trails.

Watershed Management

The SWMC has been selected to contribute to the implementation of a Watershed Management Plan in the Galien River Watershed. Local officials will be provided with materials (including maps, workshops, and zoning assistance) to make informed development decisions within the Galien River Watershed.

Heritage Route Tourism

During 2005 the SWMC assisted communities along the entire stretch of the US-12 Heritage Route in a single coordinated effort to develop the corridor for tourism and to cultivate economic development. The communities have coalesced to form a single organization to raise funds for the promotion of the corridor as a destination. The SWMC will host the US-12 website which will continue to be developed to display current events and other topics of interest along the corridor. The historic story of US-12 will be told through promotional material and web based information to attract business and tourism.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the SWMC has continued its support of CEDS goals through interdisciplinary planning efforts (land use, transportation, and economic development), provision of information (Census, traffic counts, mapping, etc.), and grant writing and grant administration for a variety of development projects. SWMC planners and staff have also spoken at a variety of events where the goals for community and economic development can be discussed and promoted.

The Southwestern Michigan Commission will continue to concentrate on activities that support economic development and strengthen local governments' and economic developers' efforts to retain and expand existing business and attract new business to the region.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Call for Projects Announcement
2. Call for Projects Form
3. 2004-2005 CEDS Projects (Ranked)
4. 2004-2005 CEDS Projects (Not Ranked)
5. CEDS Committee Members
6. SWMC Governing Board Members
7. 2005 Project Ranking Criteria and Distress Factors
8. 2005 Community and Economic Development Work Program

1. 2005 Call for Projects Announcement

Date: June 13, 2005

To: Local Units of Government in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties and Economic Development Partners

From: Shelley Klug, Associate Planner, Southwestern Michigan Commission

Re: **Economic Development District Call for Projects**

The Southwestern Michigan Commission, as the Economic Development District for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties, submits an annual *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS) report to the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA). This report includes a **list of economic development projects in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties** as submitted by local governments and economic developers.

Projects listed in this CEDS report satisfy the EDA requirement of inclusion in an approved CEDS to be eligible for funding consideration. Inclusion in the report alone does not determine eligibility for applicants or their projects but it can be a step toward it. Inclusion in the CEDS can also increase the score on grant applications to organizations like the Department of Natural Resources that award additional points to projects when they are included in an economic development plan.

While the CEDS identifies projects with potential for EDA funding (see attached investment policy guidelines from the EDA), the intent of the document is to identify all economic development-related projects in the district. It has now become standard practice to consider recreational and tourism-related projects as economic development.

Enclosed you will find a form requesting basic information about your current projects (for any municipality within Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties) to be included in the 2005 CEDS Annual Report. Please use a separate form for each project you submit.

Project information must be submitted to this office by July 15, 2005 to be included in the 2005 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report.

Thank you for your participation in this regional planning and review process designed to assist economic opportunity in southwestern Michigan!

2. 2005 Call for Projects Form

Contact Information

<i>Local Unit of Government</i>		<i>Project Title</i>		
<i>Contact Person</i>		<i>Title</i>		
<i>Street or P.O. Box</i>		<i>City, State, Zip code</i>		
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Fax</i>		<i>Email</i>	
Project Information				
Description/Summary:				
Project start date:				
Is the project industrial, commercial, recreational, tourism-related, or other? (Please specify)				
Is the project new construction, expansion, or rehabilitation?				
Is the project identified in a planning document or process?				
If yes, please specify what document or process:				
Have local matching funds been secured?				
Has the land, option, or right-of-way been obtained?				
Is the preliminary engineering planned, in progress, or completed?				
Has any private investment been committed? (please specify)				
How many permanent jobs were created or are projected?				
How many permanent jobs retained?				
Funding Information				
Funding Sources (please list amounts and circle if they are estimates or actual)				
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>EDA</i> <i>(estimate/actual)</i>	<i>Local</i> <i>(estimate/actual)</i>	<i>Private</i> <i>(estimate/actual)</i>	<i>Other</i> <i>(estimate/actual)</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>(estimate/actual)</i>

Please return this form to Southwestern Michigan Commission by July 15, 2005

3. 2004-2005 CEDS Projects (Ranked)

2004-2005 Economic Development Projects (Received in response to “Call for Projects”)				
Rank	Project Name	Category	Municipality	Total Score
1.	LMC Technology Center	Education	Benton Ch. Twp.	36 ¹ / ₂
2.	Harbor Shores	Multi-Use	Benton Harbor	31 ¹ / ₂
3.	Water Treatment Plant	Infrastructure	Village of Mattawan	30 ³ / ₄
4.	Conklin Drain Reconstruction	Multi-Use	City of Hartford	26 ³ / ₄
5.	Sports Complex	Recreational	Lawrence Twp	25 ¹ / ₄
6.	Non-motorized Path/Roosevelt	Recreational	Lincoln Ch. Twp	16 ¹ / ₄
7.	Bosch Property Redevelopment	Industrial	Lincoln Ch. Twp	14 ³ / ₄
8.	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Industrial	Porter Twp/Cass	14 ¹ / ₂
9.	North Lake Park Redevelopment	Recreational/Tourism	Lincoln Ch. Twp	12 ¹ / ₄
10.	Parks Non-motorized Trail	Recreational/Tourism	Lincoln Ch. Twp	10 ¹ / ₄

Project information and ranking forms are available upon request to the SWMC office.

4. 2004-2005 CEDS Projects (Not Ranked)2004-2005 Regional Economic Development Projects
(Received through Clearinghouse process)

Applicant	Project	Location	Funding Source
Community Housing Initiative	Broadway Café	Cassopolis	USDA Rural Business Enterprise
Greenstone Farm Credit Services	RIO Developments	Watervliet	USDA Rural Business Enterprise
Wightman & Associates	Watervliet Water System Improvements	Watervliet	USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service
Community Housing Initiative	Fiala and Smith Expansion	Cassopolis	USDA Rural Development
Covert Township	Ambulance and Fire Truck Loan	Covert Township	USDA Rural Development
Cornerstone Alliance	Whipped in Minutetz	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Enterprise
Village of Decatur	Southside Park Improvement – Skateboard Park	Decatur	MNRTF and Land & Water Conservation Fund
City of Hartford	Police Car/Public Works Snowplowing Trucks	Hartford	USDA Rural Development
MI Dept. of Agriculture	Select Michigan 2005	Van Buren Counties (among others)	USDA Rural Business Enterprise
Dorie Reid/Ace Companies	Reid/Ace Companies Loan	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Enterprise
City of South Haven	Recreational Park (SHARP)	City of South Haven/Cosco Twp	MNRTL and Land & Water Conservation Fund
South Haven Ch. Twp	Deerlick Creek Park Acquisition	South Haven Ch. Twp	MNRTF
Cass County Parks	Russ Forest Parking Area Project	Volinia Twp/Cass	MNRTF

5. CEDS Committee Members

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

James Sayer, Board Chairman, Southwestern Michigan Commission
 K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director Southwestern Michigan Commission
 Shelley Klug, Associate Planner, Southwestern Michigan Commission

<u>BERRIEN COUNTY</u>
Marge Durm-Hiatt, Niles Township
Kimberly Fedison, County of Berrien Economic Development
<u>CASS COUNTY</u>
Linda Preston, Pokagon Township
Sandra Gower, City of Dowagiac Economic Development
<u>VAN BUREN COUNTY</u>
Yemi Akinwale, City of Hartford
Mark Thomas, Michigan State University Extension Economic Development

6. SWMC Governing Board Members

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
<i>*SWMC Administration Committee Member</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>	<i>*SWMC Full Board Representation</i>			
Akinwale, Yemi*	Hartford	Hartford City Manager	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Van Buren County American Red Cross	X		
Bly, David*	Bloomingtondale	Bloomingtondale Township Supervisor*	Van Buren County Townships Association Representative* Bloomingtondale Township Supervisor Eagle Lake Bloomingtondale Association Secretary, Bloomingtondale Area Development Corp. Secretary, Bloomingtondale Water Authority Bloomingtondale Area Improvement Club Trustee, Bloomingtondale Christian Church			X
Boggs, Georgia	Niles	Retired	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Niles City Council Member Niles Housing Authority Lakeland Community Health Board Niles Community Schools Citizen Committee Berrien County League of Women Voters Niles Branch NAACP Franklin AME Church	X	X	X
Branch, Thelma	Benton Harbor	Executive Director, Benton Harbor/Benton Township Senior Services Inc.	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Benton Harbor Senior Center Quartermaster, VFW	X	X	
Carnegie, David	Dowagiac	Retired Structural Engineer	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Planning Commission Silver Creek Township Zoning Board of Appeals			
Chandler, Victoria	Sodus Township	Semi-retired	Berrien County Commissioner*		X	X
Conway, Agnes	New Buffalo	Supervisor, New Buffalo Township*	Berrien County Townships Association Representative* Supervisor, New Buffalo Township MTA Seminars Chamber of Commerce Environment and Preservation of Wetlands		X	X
Cooke, Wilce	Benton Harbor	Mayor City of Benton Harbor*	Mayor, City of Benton Harbor*	X		X
Durm-Hiatt, Marge*	Niles	Niles Township Clerk*	Supervisor's Alternate, Niles Township* Niles Township Clerk Senior Citizen Board		X	X
Engle, Louise	Hartford	Social Worker	Van Buren County Citizen Representative*		X	
Ferguson, Ron	Benton Harbor	Benton Charter Township Supervisor*	Benton Charter Township Supervisor* Vice President, United Food Commercial Workers Union	X		
Fintze, Richard	Niles	Retired Marketing Manager	Berrien County Citizen Representative*			

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Ganum, Juan	Niles	City of Niles Community Development Director	Mayor's Alternate, City of Niles* Niles City Planning Director and Zoning Admin.	X		
Gast, Donald*	Baroda	Medical Administration	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Berrien County Commissioner Berrien County Health Board Five Pines Retreat Center Member, Board for Area Agency on Aging			X
Goodenough, Cathy	Marcellus	Assistant Branch Manager, G.W. Jones Exchange Bank	Cass County Commissioner*		X	
Griffin, Ron	St. Joseph Twp	St. Joseph Charter Township Supervisor*	Supervisor, St. Joseph Charter Township*			X
Johnson, Harold A.	Bloomingtondale		Van Buren County Commissioner*			
LaHaie, Alice T.	Niles	Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* League of Women Voters Berrien/Cass Counties Chairman, Social Services Natural Resources Committee Member		X	
Lehmann, Walt	Silver Creek Township	Silver Creek Township Clerk*	Cass County Townships Association Representative* Silver Creek Township Clerk			
Lewis, Dale	South Haven	Mayor of South Haven*,Retired	Mayor of South Haven*			X
Miller, John	Dowagiac	Tribal Chairman*	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*	X		X
Newcomer, John	Baroda	Record Label Owner Retired Banker	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Baroda Township Planning Commission, Secretary Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce, former President Board of Directors, Five Pines Ministries, Berrien center Citizens for Lakeshore Public Schools, Chairman/Treasurer			
Pantaleo, Paul	New Troy	Self-Employed Business Owner	Oronoko Township Supervisor's Alternate* Weesaw Twp Sewer and Water Committee Weesaw Twp Parks Committee Four Flags Chamber of Commerce Berrien Springs Optimist Club Various Environmental Organizations Various Soccer Boards and Associations MHSAA			
Payne, Gloria	Bridgman	Lake Charter Township Clerk*	Berrien County Townships Association Representative* Lake Charter Township Clerk		X	X
Powers, Robert	Marcellus	Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Road Commission Cass County Parks Commission			

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Preston, Linda*	Pokagon Township	Pokagon Township Supervisor*	Cass County Townships Association Representative* Pokagon Township Supervisor 4-H Key Leader* Dowagiac Youth Soccer Silver Creek UMC Cass County Rental Association		X	X
Radtke, Jeff	Decatur	Manager, Decatur Lumber	Van Buren County Planning Commission, Chairman			
Rodebush, Johnie*	Niles	Retired Iron Worker	Cass County Commissioner* Area Agency on Aging Board, Director Member Niles Chamber of Commerce Elder, First Church of Christ Toastmasters American Legion Masonic Lodge #4 Library Friends			X
Ruzick, Daniel	Mattawan	Supervisor, Antwerp Township*	Supervisor, Antwerp Township*			X
Ryman, Donald F.	Buchanan	Lawyer	Berrien County Commissioner*			X
Sage, Frances*	Gobles		Van Buren County Citizen Representative*		X	
Sayer, James*	Dowagiac	Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Transportation Board Woodlands Mental Health Board, Cassopolis, MI			
Seats, Marletta	Benton Harbor	Retired	Berrien County Commissioner* MAC Economic Development and Taxation Michigan Association of Counties Southwestern Michigan Aquatic Center Abundant Life Church, Youth Ministry (Mime) Abundant Life Church, Girls Drill Team Full Gospel Assembly Outreach Ministry TU Ministry	X	X	X
Skinner, Mary*	Niles	Retired Elementary School Teacher	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Member, Lakeland Hospital Foundation Owner/Operator Commercial Lease Building	X	X	
Snow, James	Dowagiac	Dowagiac City Clerk*	Mayor's Alternate, City of Dowagiac* Dowagiac City Clerk			X
Stauffer, Dick	Stevensville	Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor*	Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor* Lakeshore Rotary Club			X
Tanczos, Tom*	South Haven	Farmer	Van Buren County Commissioner*			X

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Tapper, Sr., John H.*	Paw Paw	Chairman of the Board of John Tapper, Inc	Van Buren County Commissioner* Greater Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce Van Buren Courthouse restoration and historic preservation Van Buren/Cass Public Health Department Van Buren Community Mental Health Authority			X
Withrow, Virginia	Berrien County		Mayor's Alternate, City of St. Joseph		X	
Yarbrough, Mamie	Benton Harbor	Retired Housing Management	Berrien County Commissioner* Michigan Works Board Council for World Class Communities Morton House Museum (Friend/Docent) Lory's Peace, Board of Directors Benton Harbor Public Library (Y.P.) Krasl Art Center Board New Territory Arts Association, Scholarship Committee Natural Sistas Literary Society	X	X	X

7. Criteria for Project Ranking

POINT SYSTEM TO RANK PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDA/CEDS GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT							
Name of Project:				Municipality:			
A. Project Category: <i>(Circle all that apply)</i> Commercial, Industrial, Recreational, Multi-Use, Educational, Tourism, Infrastructure*							
B. Type of Project: <i>(Circle all that apply)</i> New Construction, Rehabilitation, or Expansion							
SECTION 1 - CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE						AWARDED
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Is project identified in a current planning document?	No					Yes	
When will construction begin?		>3 years		1-2 years		<1 year	
Status of local matching funds	None				Secured		
Status of private investment	None				Committed		
Has the land option or right-of-way been obtained?	No			Yes			
Status of engineering work	None			Complete Preliminary	Complete Final		
Number of permanent jobs created	0	≤10	11-25	26-50	51-99	>100	
Number of permanent jobs retained	0	≤10	11-25	26-50	51-99	>100	
Subtotal Section 1							
SECTION 2 - DISTRESS FACTORS FOR MUNICIPALITY WHERE PROJECTS WILL TAKE PLACE:							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Unemployment Rate (2004 Average Annual)	<4%	4.1 to 5%	5.1 to 6%	6.1 to 7%	7.1 to 9.9%	>10%	
Median Household Income (Per 2000 Census)	>41,264		39,915 to 41,263	38,568 to 39,916		<38,567	
Population Change = 1990 Census: 2000 Census:	0	0.1 to -4.99%		-5% to -9.99%	>-10%		
Minority Population	≤10%	10.1% to 14.99%	15% to 24.99%	>25%			
Subtotal Section 2							
SECTION 3 – PROJECT'S SUPPORT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC GOALS (1/4 point each)							
1. Retain, expand, and attract jobs at every economic level.							
2. Reduce unemployment and poverty, especially in areas of greatest distress.							
3. Coordinate partnerships to develop educational opportunities and job skills training to improve the quality of the local work force.							
4. Acknowledge transportation as an impediment to steady employment and encourage development of mixed-income housing in close proximity to job centers.							
5. Strengthen regional and recreational tourism through protection and enhancement of natural amenities such as groundwater, shoreline, and natural habitats.							
6. Preserve and promote agriculture as a competitive industry including value-added agriculture and agri-tourism.							
7. Encourage residential development into areas accessible to infrastructure.							
8. Rehabilitate unsafe, aging, and insufficient infrastructure and encourage creation of new infrastructure when appropriate.							
9. Encourage commercial and residential urban redevelopment.							
10. Alleviate local government fiscal limitations.							
Subtotal Section 3							
TOTAL POINTS							

8. Community and Economic Development Program
2004-2005 Work Plan

The Community and Economic Development Program has the fundamental purpose to support local units of government and economic development organizations in their work to improve the business climate and quality of life of southwestern Michigan. The principal of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to: 1) conduct a regional planning process that analyzes area needs and identifies strategies to achieve economic development goals; 2) provide technical assistance in grant writing and administration; and, 3) offer services in information and research.

Funding Sources: U.S. Economic Development Administration, county dues, local contracts, and fees

- I. Economic Development District (EDD) Administration
 - A. Revise the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy if necessary.
 - B. Complete financial and progress reports under the terms of the EDA planning grant
 - C. Prepare the 2006 EDA planning grant application

- II. Information Center
 - A. Provide quality, comprehensive economic and demographic related data services
 - 1. Carry out operations policies and procedures
 - 2. Maintain and develop the print, digital, and on-line data collection
 - 3. Execute the State Data Center Affiliate Agreement
 - 4. Issue annual service delivery report

 - B. Prepare, publish, and promote data products in response to client needs
 - 1. Continue tabulation of 2000 Census data as received
 - 2. Prepare the 2005 Manufacturers and Processors Guide
 - 3. Develop other products as time permits and demand warrants, including providing GIS mapping products

 - C. Promote services to target audiences
 - 1. Update and expand website, especially community information
 - 2. Communicate availability of new data

- III. Planning and Projects
 - A. Fulfill EDD responsibilities to EDA grant projects
 - 1. Monitor current projects and assist in developing potential projects in cooperation with Economic Development Representative of EDA
 - 2. Promote all state and federal revenue sources available for community and economic development

- IV. Other Related Efforts
 - A. Partner with other area organizations (MichiganWorks!, Cornerstone Alliance, etc.) as development opportunities arise

1. Explore EDA Grant opportunities coincide with development plans in distressed areas
 2. Assist with parks and recreation planning to improve community quality of life
 3. Continue to participate and coordinate activities with the Council for World Class Communities
- B. Write Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
1. Coordinate and develop potential projects
 2. Write applications as requested
- C. Administer Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs)