

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Southwest Michigan Planning 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.

As the designated Economic Development District for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission annually requests the submission 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, the 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.

CEDS ADMINISTRATION

SWMPC Board Membership and Representation

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Board is selected to represent county, city, village, and township officials, and citizen members who represent different interests. The SWMPC Board seeks to reflect the new EDA requirements for private sector representation.

Berrien and Cass counties are currently represented in all eligible capacities. Van Buren County's SWMPC board representation currently has one vacancy; a Michigan Townships' Association representative. Of the forty-one current appointments, sixteen of the members are female and ten of the members are from a minority group. (*Attachment 3*)

SWMPC Administration Committee

The Administration Committee, a subcommittee of the SWMPC Board, oversees all management and operations, and is currently comprised of the Board Officers, the most recent previous chairman, and six additional appointees chosen to provide leadership representative of the region. The Administration Committee includes five female members and two members who are from a minority group.

SWMPC Board Officers

SWMPC Board officers are selected with the intent to provide representation for each of the region's counties. Thomas Tanczos of Van Buren County is serving his first one-year term as chairman of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. Victoria Chandler, a Berrien County Commissioner, serves as vice-chairman. Don Gast, a Berrien County Commissioner, serves as the treasurer and Yemi Akinwale of Berrien County is the assistant treasurer. Frances Sage of Van Buren County is the board secretary.

CEDS Review Process

The CEDS Committee is comprised of members of the SWMPC Board as well as economic developers from each county. (*Attachment 4*) The Committee meets to review the CEDS and the previous Annual Report to determine necessary updates. The Committee also provides valuable input regarding the state of economic development in the region.

The *CEDS* and *Annual Reports* are distributed to area economic developers and supporting agencies/organizations for their comments and input prior to SWMPC approval. The *Annual Report* is reviewed by each of the following entities, and is reviewed and accepted through formal action by each of the county boards of commissioners and the SWMPC board. Input is

also sought through published notice of a 30-day public review and comment period open to the general public.

The *Annual Report* is reviewed by:

- **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
- **Southwest Michigan Planning Commission**
 - Administration Committee
 - Full Board

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is to:

Improve the overall economic health for all residents in the southwest Michigan region.

Goals

The goals for the CEDS are established to direct program activities and address regional economic issues. The CEDS Committee updates these goals annually with careful consideration of the region's changing economic environment. The goals established in 2006 (see below) are categorized by focus areas affecting overall economic health in the region.

Employment

- Retain, expand, and attract jobs at every economic level.
- Reduce unemployment and poverty especially in communities with greatest distress.

Workforce

- Coordinate partnerships to develop educational opportunities and job skills training to improve the quality and capabilities of the local workforce.
- Develop a desirable work and labor force climate in the region that will attract and retain young adults.

Transportation

- Address transportation issues that create impediments to quality of life pursuits such as steady employment, education, socialization, and healthcare by increasing transit services and transportation options.
- Provide leadership and facilitate partnerships for transportation-related initiatives benefiting the region.

Housing

- Address the lack of affordable housing and its impact on society and the economy by encouraging the development of mixed-income affordable housing in areas accessible to infrastructure, (including transportation) in close proximity to job centers, and as part of all urban or rural development plans.
- Encourage the inclusion of affordable housing design into municipal comprehensive and master planning efforts.

Urban Development

- Encourage urban redevelopment and re-use through renovation and rehabilitation and through the establishment of mixed-use zoning that includes commercial, retail, and residential components.
- Encourage the rehabilitation of unsafe, aging, and insufficient infrastructure and encourage creation of new infrastructure when in accordance with a plan designed to alleviate or prevent urban sprawl.

Tourism

- Strengthen tourism by promoting recreation through the enjoyment of local natural amenities.
- Encourage the development of agriculture as a competitive tourism industry including agri-tourism and agri-tainment.
- Encourage the development of tourism highlighting cultural and historic preservation.

Environment

- Promote responsible use and enhancement of natural amenities to protect and improve the quantity and quality of water, farmland, forests, and other natural habitats to ensure their sustainable attractiveness to businesses, residents, and tourists.
- Promote educational opportunities that will increase levels of awareness and dedication to the preservation and enjoyment of the region's natural areas and resources.

Data

- Increase capacity to gather and provide data and technology services for community and regional planning projects.

Fiscal health

- Alleviate local government fiscal limitations through regional coordination and cooperative partnering efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

During 2006, the SWMPC 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 SWMPC Community and Economic Development Work Program for 2006 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 unemployment and lack of job stability. Developing strategies to alleviate transportation impediments has become a regional economic development goal.

The SWMPC 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 SWMPC 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 population for the state of Michigan was estimated to have grown another 1.8 percent between 2000 and 2005. Regionally, population estimates in 2005 indicate another 1.6 percent increase in the region since 2000. As of 2005, Berrien County remains the most populated of the three counties with an estimated 162,611 people. Cass County was estimated to have a population of 51,996 in 2004, and Van Buren County was estimated to have a population of 78,812.

Unemployment

The average annual unemployment rate declined in all three counties between June 2005 and June 2006. The average unemployment rates and work force data is compared in the following table for the time period between June 2004 and June 2006.

The southwestern Michigan regional labor force showed a net increase of 4,704 workers between June 2004 and June 2006, with Van Buren County experiencing the greatest growth with 4,390 additional workers. Cass County experienced the greatest increase in unemployment rates, up from 4.0 percent to 4.4 percent. The State of Michigan's unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percent for the same period, from 7.0 percent to 6.3 percent.

County and Regional Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

Area	June 2004		June 2005		June 2006		Difference 2004-2006	
	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate
Berrien	83,825	6.8%	79,696 *	7.0%*	82,285	6.8%	-1,540	-0-
Cass	26,775	4.0%	28,108	4.7%	28,629	4.4%	1,854	+0.4%
Van Buren	36,850	6.6%	40,653	6.4%	41,240	6.0%	4,390	-0.6%
Southwest Region	147,450	5.8%	148,457	6.0%	152,154	5.9%	+4,704	+0.1%
Michigan	5,075,000	7.0%	5,154,891	6.9%	5,115,000	6.3%	+40,000	-0.7%

Source: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth/Office of Labor Market Information.¹

<http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/2005/laus2006.htm>

Berrien <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/0211f04.htm>;

Cass <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/0271f04.htm>;

Van Buren <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/lmadata/laus/lausdocs/1591f04.htm>

¹ 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 (2006)

Services provided by the SWMPC 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

The SWMPC is completing community master plans for Pipestone Township and the City of Buchanan. New master plan work will soon begin for a revision to the St. Joseph Township Plan. Each master plan that the SWMPC produces creates a blueprint for progress and development over the next ten years in that community.

The City of Benton Harbor has sought out the help of the SWMPC for city master planning assistance. At this stage a proposal has been tendered but no formal contractual relationship agreed to.

The SWMPC completed a recreation plan for Cass County in the fall of 2006. The plan has established a unified vision for recreational resources in Cass County as they move forward. The SWMPC also partnered with the City of Hartford and Hartford Township to produce a joint recreation plan. This kind of partnership between units of government is a powerful tool for better planning and efficient use of public funds.

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.

In response to a federal and statewide initiative, social service agencies from two counties collaborated with the SWMPC to develop ten year plans to end homelessness. Plans were developed for Cass County and Van Buren County with a focus on prevention and the development of methods to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of service to those who do experience homelessness. Goals centered on the increase of job availability with greater diversity of required labor skills coupled with improved transportation systems and an increase of affordable housing options are central components of the 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness as well as this *Annual Report* to the CEDS.

The development of these plans also sought to explore greater efficiencies between social service providers, agencies, and organizations to provide more return on our investment in social services. This process and the achievement of the goals will effectively improve the quality of life for all residents of both counties and the region.

Transportation Planning and Studies

The SWMPC works to improve transportation throughout southwest Michigan. The SWMPC began to follow up on our public transit study for Van Buren County completed in 2005. In 2006, the Commission secured a grant to begin implementation of a technology that will facilitate better coordination between public transit dispatching, social service agencies who engage in job placement and other vital services, and the State Department of Transportation. A more responsive public transit service can deliver more people more reliably to work and elsewhere.

The SWMPC 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

The SWMPC regularly responds to requests from within our region to research grant opportunities. This research will sometimes lead to grant writing by the Commission but can also provide the information communities need to write their own grants. The Commission often administers grants for jurisdictions within our region.

Green Infrastructure Mapping

The SWMPC wrote and received a grant from the Michigan State University Land Policy Institute for green infrastructure mapping throughout the region. The project will create a vision for green infrastructure in the three counties and increase access to digital data on the new SWMPC website.

Community Development Block Grants

The SWMPC provides grant administration services for several Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) in southwest Michigan. The SWMPC administers a CDBG through which Benton Charter Township has developed a new main access road to the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. This grant was nearing its close at the end of 2006. The SWMPC also wrote

and administered 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. The depot grant was closed by mid-year 2006 and the downtown infrastructure project is nearing completion.

Federal and State Clearinghouse

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

Michigan Information Data Center Reporting

The SWMPC 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 SWMPC completed in 2006. 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, a SWMPC map was commissioned and completed for the Michigan Department of Transportation to identify trails and economic resources accessible by those using the trails.

Watershed Management

In 2006, the SWMPC began the development of Watershed Management Plans for both the Paw Paw River Watershed and the Black River Watershed. Through these management plans, the communities within those watersheds can make informed decisions about land use and resource management. As a result they can all make steady progress toward cleaner water within the watersheds.

Heritage Route Tourism

During 2006, the SWMPC 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 SWMPC 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.

PROJECT REVIEW

Projects received in response to the “Call for Projects” process are reviewed and ranked in accordance with prescribed criteria (*Attachment 6*) to determine how closely they adhere to, and advance, the regional goals for economic development. (*See project rankings in Attachment 7*)

Projects received through the regional clearinghouse process, but outside the scope of possible EDA funding, are included in the annual report for regional development informational purposes. (*Attachment 8*)

Following a recommendation by the SWMPC, and with support from the CEDS committee, the project review section will include a “Status” report spanning a three to five project review cycle. In the future, the “Status” column will indicate whether or not a project was funded, if it is in progress, or if it is completed. (*The new “Status Report” in this Annual Report is shown as Attachment 9 to provide an example and will become a useful tool beginning with the 2007 Annual Report*)

CONCLUSION

In summary, the SWMPC 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. SWMPC 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 Southwest Michigan Planning 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. 2006 SWMPC Governing Board Members
4. 2006 CEDS Committee Members
5. 2006 Community and Economic Development Work Program
6. 2006 Project Criteria and Distress Factors
7. 2006 Projects ranked by criteria and distress factors relevant to EDA/CEDS
8. 2006 Regional Clearinghouse Review Projects
9. *Future* Status Report of 2004-2005 Projects

1. 2006 Call for Projects Announcement

Date: April 3, 2006

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**

As the Economic Development District coordinator for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties, the Southwestern Michigan Commission submits an annual report to the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) of **economic development projects** in the region. Projects are included as submitted by local governments and economic developers and become part of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS).

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.

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 2006 CEDS Annual Report. Please use a separate form for each project you submit.

Project information must be submitted to this office by July 14, 2006 to be included in the 2006 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. 2006 Call for Projects Form

<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>

Summary of Project:

Is the project industrial, commercial, recreational, tourism-related, or other (Circle one – if other, please explain)

Is the project new construction, expansion, rehabilitation, or other? (Circle one – if other, please explain)

Is the project identified in a planning document or process?

If yes, please specify what document or process:

How many permanent jobs were created or are projected?

How many permanent jobs were retained?

What is the status of the engineering?

Has any private investment been committed? (please specify)

Have local matching funds been secured?

Funding Information

Please identify funding sources. Use the following key to indicate status: A = Applied for S = Secured

\$	Status	\$	Status	\$	Status
<i>EDA</i>		<i>Other Federal</i>		<i>State</i>	
\$	Status	\$	Status	\$	
<i>Local</i>		<i>Private</i>		<i>Total Project Amount</i>	

Please return this form to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission by July 14, 2006

Additional forms are available on the SWMPC website

www.swmpc.org

3. SWMPC 2006 Governing Board Members

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
<i>*SWMPC Administration Committee Member</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>	<i>*SWMPC Full Board Representation</i>			
Akinwale, Yemi*	Hartford	Hartford City Manager	Berrien County Citizen Representative*	X		
Appleyard, Dorothy	South Haven	Mayor of South Haven,*	Mayor of South Haven* Historic Association Art Center Diversity Coalition		X	X
Bly, David*	Bloomingtondale	Bloomingtondale Township Supervisor*	Van Buren County Townships Association Representative* Secretary, Bloomingtondale Area Development Corp. Bloomingtondale Area Improvement Club Bloomingtondale depot Museum Committee Van Buren County 911 Committee Executive Board, Van Buren County Republican Party County Michigan Townships Association Van Buren County Supervisors Association			X
Boggs, Georgia	Niles	Retired	Berrien County Citizen Representative*	X	X	X
Branch, Thelma	Benton Harbor	Executive Director, Benton Harbor/Benton Township Senior Services Inc.	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Mayor's Advisory Committee Benton Harbor Senior Center Dial-a-Ride Advisory Committee 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		Berrien County Commissioner*		X	X
Conway, Agnes	New Buffalo	Supervisor, New Buffalo Township*	Berrien County Townships Association Representative* Women's Business Professionals Club TGA Cub Scout Staff		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 Senior Citizen Center League of Women Voters		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*	X		X

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Fintze, Richard	Niles	Retired Marketing Manager	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Berrien County Planning Commission Four Flags Chamber of Commerce Four Flags Area Council on Tourism Four Flags Senior Housing Board Niles Area Transportation Board Friends of Niles/River Fest Friends of Niles/Bluegrass Fest Michigan Civitan Foundation			
Ganum, Juan	Niles	City of Niles Planning Director	Mayor's Alternate, City of Niles*	X		
Gast, Donald*	Baroda	Medical Administration	Berrien County Citizen Representative*			X
Goodenough, Cathy	Marcellus	Assistant Branch Manager, G.W. Jones Exchange Bank	Cass County Commissioner*		X	X
Griffin, Ron	St. Joseph Twp	St. Joseph Charter Township Supervisor*	Supervisor, St. Joseph Charter Township* Cornerstone Alliance Board Township Supervisors Organization			X
Johnson, Harold A.	Bloomingtondale		Van Buren County Commissioner*			X
Jones, Jason	Decatur	Decatur Village Manager	Van Buren County Citizen Representative* Vice Chairman, Decatur Hamilton Fire Board Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce Decatur Downtown Development Association Optimists Lakeview Board of Directors			
LaHaie, Alice T.	Niles	Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* League of Women Voters Berrien/Cass Counties		X	
Lehmann, Walt	Silver Creek Township	Silver Creek Township Clerk*	Cass County Townships Association Representative*			
Miller, John	Dowagiac	Tribal Chairman*	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*	X		X
Newcomer, John	Baroda	Record Label Owner Retired Banking Executive	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Baroda Township Planning Commission, Secretary Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce, former President Board of Directors, Five Pines Ministries, Berrien Center Lakeshore Public Schools, Strategic Planning Committee Lakeshore Public Schools Chair of Millage/Bond Committee			
Pantaleo, Paul	New Troy	Business Owner	Oronoko Township Supervisor's Alternate* Berrien County Solid Waste Committee Chair Weesaw Township Sewer and Water Committee Weesaw Township Parks and Recreation Committee Four Flags Chamber of Commerce Berrien Springs Optimist Club Friends of New Troy National Wildlife Federation World Wildlife Fund Blossomland Soccer League Board SW Michigan Soccer Referees Association Optimist Soccer League Berrien Springs Board			

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Payne, Gloria	Bridgman	Lake Charter Township Clerk*	Berrien County Townships Association Representative* Bridgman Chamber of Commerce Brownfield Authority		X	X
Powers, Robert	Marcellus	Realtor	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Road Commission, Chairman ReMax Shore Acres Lewis Cass Intermediate School District			
Preston, Linda*	Pokagon Township	Pokagon Township Supervisor*	Cass County Townships Association Representative* 4-H Key Leader		X	X
Radtke, Jeff	Decatur	Manager, Decatur Lumber	Van Buren County Citizen Representative* Van Buren County Planning Commission, Chairman Land Preservation Board			
Rodebush, Johnie*	Niles	Retired Iron Worker	Cass County Commissioner* Area Agency on Aging Member Niles Chamber of Commerce American Legion Masonic Lodge #4 Cass County Library Friends Iron Workers Local 292, South Bend Niles Senior Center Niles Community Schools Millage Committee Lions			X
Ruzick, Daniel	Mattawan	Supervisor, Antwerp Township*	Supervisor, Antwerp Township*			X
Ryman, Donald F.	Buchanan	Lawyer	Berrien County Commissioner* Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Director Berrien county Economic Development Corporation and Loan Guarantee Board Berrien County Historical Association, Director Niles-Buchanan-Cass Traffic Study Michigan Association of Counties, Transportation Committee Clark Salaried Retirees Club			X
Sage, Frances*	Gobles		Van Buren County Citizen Representative* School Board Member		X	
Sayer, James*	Dowagiac	Semi-Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Transportation Board, Secretary Dowagiac Lions Club Woodlands Mental Health Board, Cassopolis, MI			
Seats, Marletta	Benton Harbor		Berrien County Commissioner* MAC Economic Development and Taxation 911 Committee	X	X	X
Skinner, Mary*	Niles	Retired Elementary School Teacher	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Chamber of Commerce Member, Lakeland Hospital Foundation Owner Of Four Flags Development Special Needs Children Volunteer	X	X	
Snow, James	Dowagiac	Dowagiac City Clerk*	Mayor's Alternate, City of Dowagiac*			X

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Stauffer, Dick	Stevensville	Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor*	Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor* Lakeshore Rotary Club, Secretary			X
Tanczos, Tom*	South Haven	Farmer	Van Buren County Commissioner* Local Development Finance Authority Brownfield, South Haven			X
Tapper, Sr., John H.*	Paw Paw	Chairman of the Board of John Tapper, Inc	Van Buren County Commissioner* Van Buren Economic Development Corporation Van Buren Courthouse Historic Restoration Van Buren/Cass Health Board			X
Withrow, Virginia	Berrien County		Mayor's Alternate, City of St. Joseph		X	
Yarbrough, Mamie	Benton Harbor	Retired	Berrien County Commissioner* Michigan Works Board Morton House Museum (Friend/Docent) Lory's Peace, Board of Directors Benton Harbor Public Library, Vice President	X	X	X

4. CEDS Committee Members

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
 Shelley Klug, Associate Planner, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

<u>BERRIEN COUNTY</u>
Marletta Seats, SWMPC Board
Yemi Akinwale, SWMPC Board
<u>CASS COUNTY</u>
Alice LaHaie, SWMPC Board
Sandra Gower, City of Dowagiac Economic Development
<u>VAN BUREN COUNTY</u>
John Tapper, SWMPC Board
Jeff Radtke, SWMPC Board
<u>SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN REGION</u>
Judith Peterson, Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency
Dayna Kozminski, MichiganWorks!

5. Community and Economic Development Program 2006 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 in southwestern Michigan. The principle 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: 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 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 that 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 (CDBG)

6. 2006 Project Criteria Point System to Rank Projects

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	
Status of local matching funds	None				Secured		
Status of private investment	None				Committed		
Status of engineering work	None			Complete Preliminary	Complete Final		
Number of permanent jobs created (estimated)	0	≤10	11-25	26-50	51-99	>100	
Number of permanent jobs retained (estimated)	0	≤10	11-25	26-50	51-99	>100	
Subtotal Section 1							
SECTION 2 - DISTRESS FACTORS FOR MUNICIPALITY WHERE PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE:							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Unemployment Rate² <i>(August 2006 by County)</i>	<4%	4.1 to 5%	5.1 to 6%	6.1 to 7%	7.1 to 9.9%	>10%	
Median Household Income <i>(Per 2000 Census)</i>	>41,264		39,915 to 41,263	38,568 to 39,916		<38,567	
Population Change <i>(1990-2000 Census)</i>	0	0.1 to -4.99%		-5% to -9.99%	>-10%		
Minority Population <i>(Per 2000 Census)</i>	≤10%	10.1% to 14.99%	15% to 24.99%	>25%			
Subtotal Section 2							
SECTION 3 – Project's support of regional economic goals (1 point possible for meeting goals per each focus area)							
1. Employment (1point possible)							
2. Workforce (1 point possible)							
3. Transportation (1 point possible)							
4. Housing (1 point possible)							
5. Urban Development (1 point possible)							
6. Tourism (1point possible)							
7. Environment (1 point possible)							
8. Data and Technology (1 point possible)							
9. Municipality Fiscal Health (1 point possible)							
Subtotal Section 3							
TOTAL POINTS							

² http://dev.workforceexplorer.com/MICHIGAN/admin/uploadedPublications/1029_miurat_map.pdf

7. 2006 Economic Development Projects

2006 Economic Development Projects – Ranked per Criteria <i>(Received in response to “Call for Projects”)</i>					
Rank	Project Name	Category	Municipality	Total Score	Status*
1	Central Middle School Brownfield	Commercial/new construction	City of Dowagiac	32	In progress
2	Industrial Park Rail Spur	Industrial/new construction	City of Bangor	30	
3	Water Treatment Plant	New construction/Public use	Village of Mattawan	28	
4	Bangor Community Museum	Tourism-related/new construction	City of Bangor	24	
5	Southwestern Michigan Aquatic Center	Recreation/Education/Tourism/new construction	Berrien County	24	
6	Bangor City Hall	Rehabilitation/Government	City of Bangor	18	

8. 2006 Regional Projects

Received through Clearinghouse process				
Applicant	Project	Location	Funding Source	Status
Village of Mattawan	(Water treatment plants to remove arsenic)	Mattawan	USDA Rural Development	
CWAEDC	Establish revolving loan fund	Coloma/Watervliet	USDA	
Edgeworks Land Company	New Edgeworks South Haven Building	South Haven	USDA	
Lake Michigan College	Educational Talent Search	Benton Harbor	US Dept of Education	
Chikaming Open Lands	Habitat Management	Lakeside/New Buffalo	US Dept of the Interior	
MI Dept. of Agriculture	Select Michigan 2006	8 counties SW MI	USDA Rural Business Enterprise	
Lake Michigan College	Educational Opportunity Centers Program	Benton Harbor	US Dept of Education	
Village of Vandalia	Napoleon Fields Park/Milo Park Improvements	Vandalia	MDNRTF	
Hagar Township	Roadside Park Improvements	Riverside	MDNRTF	
Village of Decatur	Southside Park Pavilion	Decatur	MDNR	
Village of Bloomingdale	Bloomingdale Wastewater Collection/Treatment System	Bloomingdale	USDA Rural Development	
City of St. Joseph	Howard Family Recreation Path Lighting	St. Joseph	MDNRTF	
City of Hartford	Ely Park Development	Hartford	MDNRTF	
Michigan Biodiesel	Construction of Biodiesel plant	Bangor	MDNRTF	
Village of Galien	Public Water System Study	Galien	USDA Predevelopment	
Tri-City Village	Rehabilitation of Senior Housing	Watervliet	HUD	
Carol Terry	Terry's Wind Generator	Cassopolis	USDA Rural Business Co-op	
MI Dept of Natural Resources	Inland Waters Access Initiative/ State Trailways Initiative State Park and Recreation Area Consolidation Wildlife Land Consolidation	Statewide	MDNRTF	
Dickerson's Greenhouse	Dickerson's Greenhouses Energy Renewable Project	Bloomingdale	USDA Renewable Energy	
SW MI Technical Assistance Center	Procurement Technical Assistance for Business Firms	SW MI Region	MEDC and Defense Logistics Agency	
Berrien County Health Department	Nurse Family Partnership Program	Berrien County	U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services	
Berrien County Health Department	Abstinence Education and Promotion Project	Berrien County	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	
Berrien County Health Department	Community Alliance Against Substance Abuse	Berrien County	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	
Southwestern Michigan Commission	Sodus Kitchen Incubator Feasibility Study	Sodus/Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Enterprise	
St. Joseph Charter Township	Eaton Park Playground Equip.	St. Joseph Township	MDNR Recreation	
City of Dowagiac	Dowagiac Youth Sports Park	Dowagiac	MDNR Recreation	
City of St. Joseph	Kiwanis Park Softball Field Renovation	St. Joseph	MDNR Recreation	
South Haven Charter Township	Deerlick Creek Park Acquisition	South Haven Township	MDNR Recreation	
Village of Baroda	New Industrial Park	Baroda	USDA Rural Development	
Weesaw Township	Township Community Park Acquisition	New Troy	MDNR Recreation	
Benton Harbor Public Schools	Re-design of H.S. for Small Learning Communities	Benton Harbor	U.S. Dept. of Education	
Tri-County Head Start	Regular Operating Funds	Berrien/Cass/Van Buren	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	

9. Status Report of 2004-2005 Projects (Example of Future Report)

2004-2005 Economic Development Projects (Received in response to "Call for Projects" and ranked per criteria)					
Rank	Project Name	Category	Municipality	Total Score	Status
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}	

Status Report of 2004-2005 Clearinghouse Projects (Example of Future Report)

2004-2005 Regional Economic Development Projects (Received through Clearinghouse process)				
Applicant	Project	Location	Funding Source	Status
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 Minutaz	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Enterprise	
Village of Decatur	Southside Park Improvement – Skateboard Park	Decatur	MNRTF and Land & Water Conservation Fund	Complete
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	