



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

FROM: K. John Egelhaaf

DATE: October 6, 2019

RE: Staff Report for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission October 15, 2019

Office Updates

A. General

- a. Marcy Hamilton
 - i. IN-MI River Valley Trail Expansion Meeting(s)
 - ii. Marquette Greenway meeting
 - iii. MSU Water Fellow Meeting – Lansing
 - iv. Paw Paw River Water Trail Meeting
 - v. Governor’s Thriving Cities Meeting
 - vi. Pucker Street Dam Meetings
 - vii. Dunes Workshop Panel Participation
- b. John Egelhaaf
 - i. Innovate Michigan Summit (Session Moderator & Attendee) – East Lansing
 - ii. Michigan Energy & Communications SMART Park Team Meeting
 - iii. Guest Lecture @ Andrews University Urban Design
 - iv. Edwardsburg Vision Meeting
 - v. Edwardsburg Potential Development Meeting
 - vi. Presenter @ Cass County Commissioner’s Board Retreat
- c. Kris Martin
 - i. IN-MI River Valley Trail Expansion Meeting(s)
 - ii. Paw Paw River Water Trail Meeting
- d. Jerrid Burdue
 - i. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Panel Discussion - West Michigan Regional Planning Council
 - ii. Innovate Michigan Summit – East Lansing
 - iii. Michigan Energy & Communications SMART Park Team Meeting

Project Updates

A. Rural Broadband Activity

- a. Collaboration with ACD
 - i. ACD – a Lansing Internet Service Provider
 - ii. Interested in Expanding Broadband into Rural Areas of SW MI
- b. Broadband Coverage Survey – Coming Soon
 - i. Formally Endorsed by Berrien County Commissioners

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Project Updates

- B. Regional Prosperity Initiative**
 - a. Facilitation of \$90,000 in Grant Funding Award Decisions (September)
 - b. Upjohn Institute Housing Toolkit (due March 2020)

- C. Economic Development District**
 - a. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report
 - c. Research into Holding a “REDS” – Regional Economic Diversification Summit – In SW MI
 - i. Collaboration w/EDA & other Federal Funders
 - d. Assistance to Michigan Energy & Communications (MEC) on New SMART Industrial Park in Cassopolis

- D. Proposed Expansion of Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail**
 - a. SWMPC Facilitating Discussion Re: Expansion To Berrien Springs

- E. Amtrak Pere Marquette**
 - a. Opportunity to Connect Pere Marquette Route to Blue Water & Wolverine Routes
 - i. Increased Frequency
 - ii. More Flexibility for Michigan Rail Users
 - b. Re-engineering New Buffalo Station Would Provide Michigan Connection to Three Routes
 - c. Supplemental Funding Allocated in Michigan Legislature
 - i. \$250,000 Earmarked to SWMPC
 - d. Future Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program Federal Grant Application

- F. Michiana Area Council of Governments Collaboration**
 - a. South Bend Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Agreement for Quarterly Reciprocal Meeting Attendance