

# **2008 SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

## **2007-2009 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**For**

**Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta,  
Montcalm, Osceola, and Ottawa Counties**

**Prepared by the**

**WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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**Submitted as a Supplement to Region 8's**

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

**In accordance with requirements of the  
U.S. Economic Development Administration**

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**September 2008**

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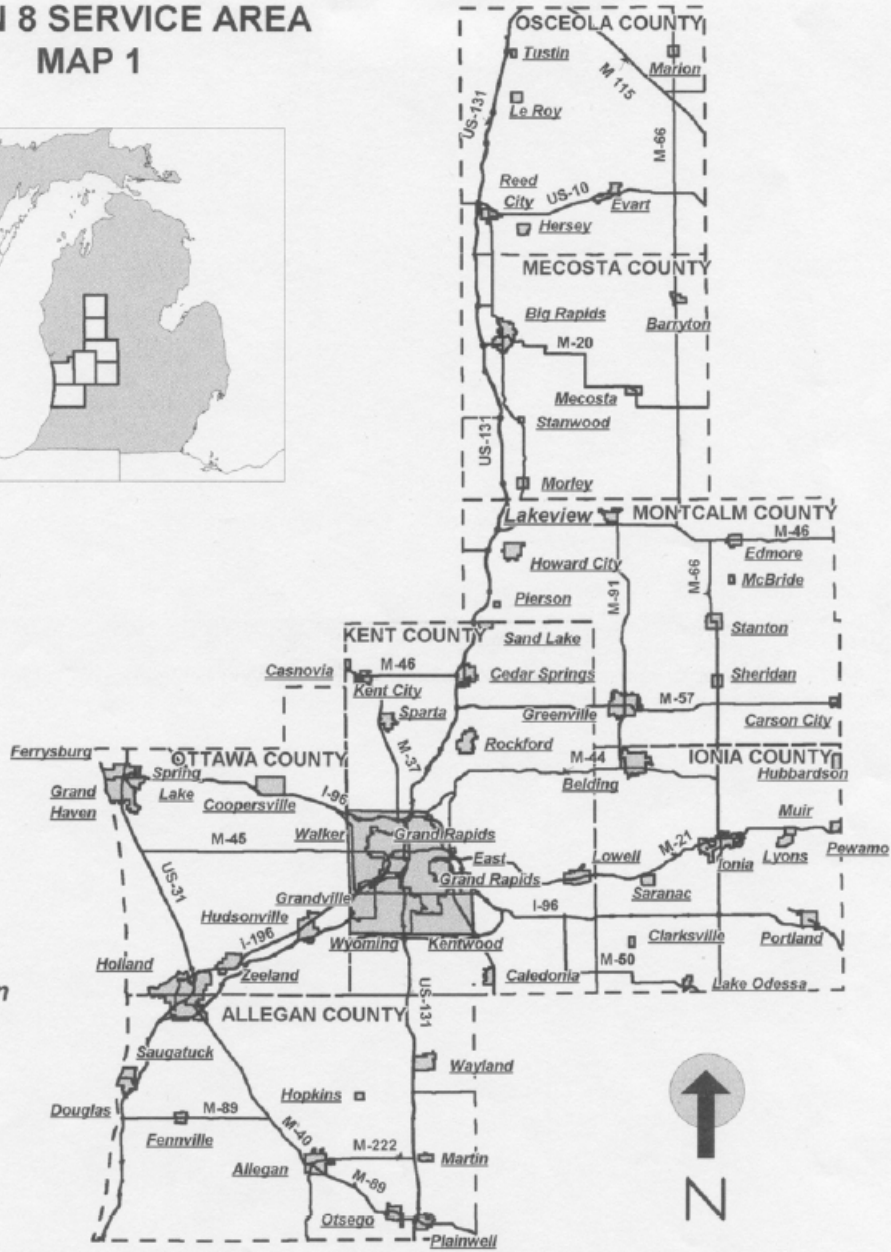
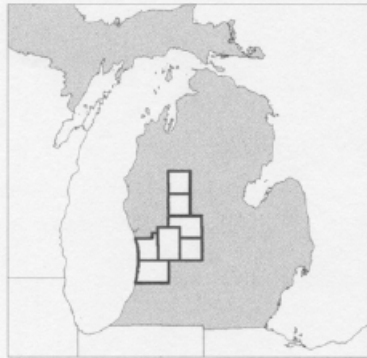
## **INTRODUCTION**

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission is pleased to submit this 2008 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This Supplemental Report represents the second phase of the new three-year planning cycle. The 2007-2009 CEDS remains the principle economic development strategy for the seven county area, known as Region 8, which includes Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, and Ottawa counties (see Map 1).

In addition to some summary information from the 2007-2009 CEDS, this report provides several additional projects that member communities are interested in implementing that were not included in the 2007-2009 CEDS. The Supplemental Report also includes the Mid-Point Progress Report that was submitted to EDA in July 2008. Also, a brief summary is included that includes activities that have occurred since the Mid-Point Report was filed. The Supplemental Report also includes up-to-date employment information for each of the counties and Region 8 as-a-whole. Finally, the Supplemental Report includes a description of new initiatives and a list of Supplemental Goals to reflect the ever-changing needs of the WMRPC, EDA, and our member communities.

With the submission of this Supplemental Report, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission completes its thirty-sixth year as an Economic Development District.

# REGION 8 SERVICE AREA MAP 1



## **U.S. Economic Development Administration Investment Policy Guidelines**

Investment applications will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed the following investment policy guidelines:

**Be market-based and results-driven.** An investment will capitalize on a region's competitive strengths and will positively move a regional economic indicator measured on EDA's Balanced Scorecard, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or increased private-sector investment.

**Have strong organizational leadership.** An investment will have strong leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human-resources talent to ensure a project's successful execution.

**Advance productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.** An investment will embrace the principles of entrepreneurship, enhance regional clusters, and leverage and link technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation.

**Look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversify the local and regional economy.** An investment will be part of an overarching, long-term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.

### **Demonstrate a high degree of commitment by exhibiting:**

- High levels of local-government or nonprofit matching funds and private-sector leverage.
- Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials.
- Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners, and local, state, and federal governments.

## **Vision Statement**

The following Vision Statement is the preferred future in 2025 of the seven counties within Region 8. Due to the variety that exists across the seven counties, the Vision Statement is general enough that each of the seven counties can embrace the universal ideas and revise them to meet their own unique features and goals.

The Region's population continues to grow and thrive in well-planned communities that represent the varied lifestyles that West Michigan residents choose. West Michigan's clean environment and diverse natural resources are fundamental to the Region's success and identity.

The Region's economy provides a wide range of jobs that support the Region's residents and provide a payroll and tax base necessary to maintain a high quality of life across the seven-county Region. The diverse economy includes a healthy mixture of base employers including manufacturing, health care services, natural resource-based employment, value-added agriculture, education, new technologies including renewable energy resources, and other forms of base employment. Well planned and coordinated public infrastructure is in place to assist in the healthy growth of the Region's economy.

Healthy urban centers and small towns provide a wide variety of services, while rural areas have sufficient land preserved for farmland and open space. Communities coordinate with neighboring communities and a variety of levels of government to provide a sustainable level of services to their residents. A wide variety of housing exists to meet the varied demands of the diverse population.

Public and private schools provide quality educational opportunities to students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade and the Region's universities, colleges, and other training facilities provide the necessary skills for West Michigan's residents to compete locally or globally.

## **Mission Statement**

The Board of the WMRPC adopted the following Mission Statement on June 21, 2002:

To assist planning efforts in community and economic development,  
provide a regional forum for sharing information and ideas,  
and promote cooperative solutions to regional issues.

## **Summary of Goals**

The Goals and Objectives (listed in their complete form in the 2007-2009 CEDS) are divided into two categories: 1) Organizational and 2) Community and Economic Development.

### **Organizational Goals**

#### **Goal #1**

The WMRPC shall maintain an active and productive role with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

#### **Goal #2**

The WMRPC shall keep communities informed of programs offered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

#### **Goal #3**

The WMRPC shall maintain a Board and CEDS Committee that meets rules established by EDA.

#### **Goal #4**

The WMRPC shall promote coordination between counties, cities, townships, villages, the federal government, the State of Michigan, non-profits and other community-based organizations.

#### **Goal #5**

While EDA is the primary partner related to economic development, the WMRPC shall actively participate with other community and economic development organizations.

### **Community and Economic Development Goals**

#### **Goal #1**

Communities should maintain an up-to-date vision related to community and economic development.

#### **Goal #2**

Communities should recognize the relationship that exists between healthy urban centers and healthy rural areas.

#### **Goal #3**

Communities should promote a diverse economy that recognizes the Region's and individual communities' varied strengths.

#### **Goal #4**

Communities should investigate and emphasize the long-range impacts of projects as opposed to seeking short-term solutions to issues.

#### **Goal #5**

Communities should continuously seek to improve all aspects of community life.

## **2008-2009 SUPPLEMENTAL GOALS**

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will continue to implement the five Organizational Goals and the five Community and Economic Development Goals identified in this document. Over the next 12 months, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee plan to perform the following Supplemental Goals and Objectives:

### **Supplemental Goal #1**

The WMRPC will revise the CEDS Project Evaluation Criteria to better reflect the current needs of Region 8's Communities and the EDA Investment Policy Guidelines.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Staff will prepare new set of Evaluation Criteria for review by the CEDS Committee at its January 2009 meeting.
2. The CEDS Committee will review, revise, and adopt a new set of Evaluation Criteria and forward the Criteria to the WMRPC Board for approval.
3. The WMRPC and CEDS Committee will begin using the new set of Evaluation Criteria when developing the 2010-2012 CEDS.

### **Supplemental Goal #2**

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will develop a process to expand the CEDS Committee's role in project selection.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Recognizing that there are a limited number of projects that EDA and other agencies can fund each year, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will develop, along with the new CEDS Project Evaluation Criteria, a method for the CEDS Committee to select projects that would provide the greatest positive impact to Region 8's member communities.
2. In addition to evaluating CEDS projects on a region-wide basis, the WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will develop a method to evaluate projects that would benefit sub-regions within Region 8 (recognizing that there are sub-regions within the seven-county area).
3. The WMRPC and CEDS Committee will establish sub-regions, made up of two or more counties each that reflect the varied economic development issues across Region 8.

### **Supplemental Goal #3**

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee will expand the involvement of the private sector representatives on the WMRPC Board and the CEDS Committee.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Establish private sector e-mail list to create ongoing dialog between the private sector representatives.
2. Continue to seek interested private sector representatives from the member communities.
3. Continue to seek and follow recommendations from EDA related to expanding the involvement of the private sector in the CEDS.

## ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

This section describes the composition of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) Board and CEDS Committee.

### WMRPC Board

The WMRPC Board is comprised of public and private, and elected and appointed officials from throughout Region 8 who focus on issues which are common to members or cross jurisdictional boundaries. The WMRPC acts as a regional forum to share ideas and develop regional solutions. The WMRPC also acts as a liaison between West Michigan and state and federal agencies.

The WMRPC Board currently has a 33-member policy board, which includes three representatives designated by each member community and three at-large Board member spaces reserved to assure broad representation of the region. There are also three alternate representatives designated by members. Board members are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Public Sector Representatives</b>		
<b>Terry Burns</b> (Allegan County)	220 Hoover Blvd. Holland, MI 49423	(616) 355-2525
<b>Thomas Hogenson</b> (City of Big Rapids)	322 S. Warren Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-4409
<b>Mark Gifford</b> (City of Big Rapids)	226 N. Michigan Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-4036
<b>Christine Burns</b> (City of Cedar Springs)	66 S. Main St. Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 696-1330
<b>Pat Capek</b> (City of Cedar Springs)	66 S. Main St. Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 696-1330
<b>Suzanne Schulz</b> (City of Grand Rapids)	300 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503	(616) 456-3033
<b>Walt Gutowski</b> (City of Grand Rapids)	300 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503	
<b>Gregg Yeomans</b> (Ionia County)	1302 W. Lincoln Avenue Ionia, MI 48846	(616) 527-6583
<b>Shawn Seal</b> (Ionia County)	955 Marshall Drive Portland, MI 48875	(517) 647-7625
<b>Ray Steinke</b> (Mecosta County)	19207 W. Jefferson, Box 141 Morley, MI 49336	(231) 856-7090

Table 1 (Continued)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Paul Bullock</b> (Mecosta County)	400 Elm Street Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 796-2505
<b>John Johansen</b> (Montcalm County)	3474 Monroe Road Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-5375
<b>Marcia Walker</b> (Montcalm County)	811 Hawthorne Court Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-8236
<b>Elmo Hoaglund</b> (Osceola County)	19020 – 130th Avenue Tustin, MI 49688	(231) 829-3540
<b>Dan Massy</b> (Osceola County)	Osceola Economic Alliance 301 W. Upton, Reed City, MI 49677	(231) 832-7397
<b>Edward Berghorst</b> (Ottawa County)	1781 Lakeview Drive Zeeland, MI 49464	(616) 772-6661
<b>Mark Knudsen</b> (Ottawa County)	12220 Fillmore West Olive, MI 49460	(616) 738-4852
<b>Joanne Voorhees</b> (City of Wyoming)	5380 Kenowa Ave. SW Wyoming, MI 49418	(616) 534-1876
<b>Tim Cochran</b> (City of Wyoming)	P.O. Box 905 Wyoming, MI 49509-0905	(616) 530-7258
<b>Private Sector Representatives</b>		
<b>L. Charles Mulholland</b> (At-Large Member)	4685 N. Bailey Road Coral, MI 49322	(231) 354-6325
<b>Regina Davis</b> (At-Large Member)	Fair Housing Center of West Michigan 20 Hall St. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506	(616) 451-2980
<b>Howard H. Hansen</b> (At-Large Member)	1973 Oakleigh Woods NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504	(616) 735-9099
<b>Ken Graff</b> (Allegan County)	850 Lake Michigan Drive South Haven, MI 49090	(269) 637-2307
<b>Joseph Harper</b> (City of Big Rapids)	128 N. Warren Big Rapids, MI 49037	(231) 796-7639
<b>Michele Andres</b> (City of Cedar Springs) (City of Grand Rapids)	15476 Simmons Avenue NE Cedar Springs, MI 49319	(616) 696-4443
<b>Joe Marhofer</b> (Ionia County)	8408 Krupp Road Belding, MI 48809	(616) 794-1264
<b>Charles McCafferty</b> (Mecosta County)	9435 Briarstone Drive Stanwood, MI 49346	(231) 972-7292

Table 1 (Continued)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Tom Lindeman</b> (Montcalm County)	P.O. Box 96 Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-4918
<b>Morris Langworthy</b> (Osceola County)	17135 Pineview LeRoy, MI 49655	(231) 876-3483
<b>Chris Larson</b> (Ottawa County)	17673 Jordan Spring Lake, MI 49456	(616) 850-3035
<b>Lillian Vanderveen</b> (City of Wyoming)	2751 Colgate Court SW Wyoming, MI 49519	(616) 534-3013
<b>Alternates</b>		
<b>Tom Jessup</b> (Allegan County)	6717 – 108th Avenue South Haven, MI 49090	(269) 637-3374
<b>Linda Howard</b> (Mecosta County)	1332 Nine Mile Road Remus, MI 49340	(989) 967-3468
<b>Sam Bolt</b> (City of Wyoming)	P.O. Box 905 Wyoming, MI 49509-0905	

### **WMRPC Executive Committee**

The WMRPC Executive Committee is comprised of the three officers elected by the Board of the WMRPC in January of each year, and additional members appointed by the Chair. In 2008 the Executive Committee is made-up of the following six people:

- Charles Mulholland, Chair
- Vice Chair – Tim Cochran
- Ed Berghorst, Treasurer
- Regina Davis, Member
- Gregg Yeomans, Member
- Paul Bullock, Member

### **Regional CEDS Committee**

In all economic planning and development activities, the WMRPC staff works closely with the District's CEDS Committee, the members of which are listed in Table 2.

The CEDS Committee consists of members from each of the seven counties in the region, which allows for broad geographic representation and provides for close coordination with local governments and agencies. The CEDS Committee membership is also representative of the diverse interests in the Region to ensure that the viewpoints of all interests are considered and to take advantage of local skills in program formulation and implementation. Represented on the Committee are interests of local governments, business, industry, agriculture, finance, community organizations, minorities, and women. All CEDS Committee members have experience in dealing with planning problems from a regional perspective.

The CEDS Committee currently is a 20-member committee comprised of members from each of the seven counties within Region 8 and two at-large members. At its June 16, 2006 meeting, the WMRPC adopted a set of guidelines for the CEDS Committee that satisfies EDA's requirements for the majority of the CEDS Committee being comprised of private sector representatives.

**Table 2: 2008 CEDS Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Public Sector Representatives</b>		
<b>Larry "Casey" Jones</b> (Allegan County)	258 Golfview Plainwell, MI 49080	(269) 664-5362
<b>Cindy Plautz</b> (City of Big Rapids)	226 N. Michigan Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-4036
<b>Kara Wood</b> (City of Grand Rapids)	300 Monroe NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503	(616) 456-3196
<b>Julianne Burns</b> (Ionia County)	114 N. Kidd St, PO Box 496, Ionia, MI 48846	(616) 527-4170
<b>William Mrdeza</b> (Mecosta County)	Mecosta Co. Dev. Corp. 246 N. State Big Rapids, MI 49307	(231) 592-3403
<b>Tom Lindeman</b> (Montcalm County)	PO Box 96 Greenville, MI 48838	(616) 754-4918
<b>Dan Massy</b> (Osceola County)	Osceola Economic Alliance 301 W. Upton, Reed City, MI 49677	(231) 832-7397
<b>Edward Berghorst</b> (Ottawa County)	1781 Lakeview Drive Zeeland, MI 49464	(616) 772-6661
<b>Tim Cochran</b> (City of Wyoming)	P.O. Box 905 Wyoming, MI 49509-0905	(616) 530-7258
<b>Private Sector Representatives</b>		
<b>Nora Balgoyen-Williams</b> (Allegan County)	2188 36th St. Allegan, MI 49010	(269) 686-5079
<b>Joseph Harper</b> (City of Big Rapids)	128 N. Warren Big Rapids, MI 49037	(231) 796-7639
(City of Grand Rapids)		

Table 2 (Continued)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Chris Thelen</b> (Ionia County)	Consumers Energy 530 W. Willow, Lansing, MI 48909	(517) 374-2235
<b>David Hamelund</b> (Mecosta County) (Montcalm County)	18256 Taft Road Big Rapids, MI 49307	
<b>Larry Morlock</b> (Osceola County)	9357 S. 95th Avenue Ewart, MI 49631	(231) 734-5200
<b>John Miner</b> (Ottawa County)	350 Erin Isle Drive Holland, MI 49424	(616) 298-8257
<b>Lillian Vanderveen</b> (City of Wyoming)	2751 Colgate Court SW Wyoming, MI 49519	(616) 534-3013
<b>Chuck Birr</b> (At-Large)	5609 Bentbrook Kentwood, MI 49508	(616) 813-6356
<b>Howard H. Hansen</b> (At-Large)	1973 Oakleigh Woods NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504	(616) 735-9099

### **WMRPC Staff**

The WMRPC maintains a staff of three:

- Dave Bee, AICP, Director – Mr. Bee started at the Region in 1999.
- Brandon Bartoszek, Planner – Mr. Bartoszek started at the Region in 2006.
- Nancy Murphy, Administrative Assistant – Ms. Murphy started at the Region in 2000.

## **MID-POINT PROGRESS REPORT**

The following ten topic areas summarize the progress of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) during the first 18 months (January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) of its three-year (January 1 2007 through December 31, 2009) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

### **WMRPC Board and CEDS Committee**

The 33-member WMRPC Board and the 16-member CEDS Committee met throughout the reporting period.

- The WMRPC Board met eight times during the reporting period. All meetings had quorums and were well attended.
- The WMRPC maintained an appropriate level of public and private sector representatives. Member communities appoint two public sector members and one private sector member, and there are three additional private sector/at large positions on the WMRPC Board. The WMRPC Bylaws were changed in 2006 to allow for private sector involvement.
- In addition to the required administrative tasks of the Board (financial, budget, electing officers, etc.) each meeting had training opportunities. Speakers provided a variety of training. 2007 meeting topics/training included the annual audit report in January, George Bosanic detailed Greenville's new United Solar Ovonic facilities in March, Greg Fox described Ice Mountain's water bottling facilities in June, Jeanne Englehart provided information about the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in September, and Michigan Senator Patricia Birkholz explained water and planning issues in Michigan at the December meeting. 2008 meeting topics/training included Steven Law from the Timberland RC&D in January, Andrew Such from MI Energy Future in March, and Steve Redmond from the Michigan Department of Transportation in June.
- Each Board Meeting has a "Regional Roundtable," which allows everyone an opportunity to share information and ask questions of how member communities address economic and community development issues.
- The CEDS Committee met six times during the reporting period. All meetings had quorums and were well attended. A seventh meeting was scheduled in January 2008 but was cancelled due to inclement weather. Additionally, the CEDS Committee is always invited to attend and participate in the December WMRPC Board Meetings.
- The CEDS Committee maintained an appropriate level of public and private sector representatives. Member communities appoint one public sector members and one private sector member, and there are two additional private sector/at large positions on the CEDS Committee.
- In addition to the required administrative tasks of the CEDS Committee (soliciting community projects, maintaining the CEDS, electing officers, etc.) each meeting had training opportunities. Speakers provided a variety of training. 2007 meeting topics/training included Jenny Shangraw from the Right Place Inc. in January, Sandra Bloem from the Economic Development Foundation in March, Ray DeWinkle from the Michigan Economic Developers Association in May, and two representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in August. 2008 meeting topics/training included Paul Bristol from USDA Rural Development in March. At the May meeting we

heard from economic developers from four counties surrounding Region 8: John Czarnecki from Clinton County, Valerie Byrnes from Barry County Ted Thar from VanBuren County, and Andy Lofgren from Newaygo County (this was a fantastic session).

- Each CEDS Committee Meeting has a “Regional Roundtable,” which allows everyone an opportunity to share information and ask questions of how member communities address economic and community development issues.
- While the WMRPC Board and the CEDS Committee both meet EDA’s private sector representation requirements, we still struggle with defining a meaningful role for the private sector members. We recently surveyed Board Members and CEDS Committee Members to determine how to address this. While there is little interest in forming an additional committee, there is some interest in creating an e-mail based committee of private sector representatives to discuss issues and bring ideas to the full Board and/or CEDS Committee.

### **CEDS Document**

The WMRPC and the CEDS Committee overhauled the CEDS Document and forwarded the 2007-2009 CEDS to EDA in January 2008. The three-year document includes a variety of information including:

- An Introduction that includes EDA’s Investment Policy Guidelines, the WMRPC Vision Statement and Mission Statement, a summary of Goals, and a description of recent changes.
- An Organization and Management section that describes the WMRPC administrative structure, the CEDS process, a description of public and private involvement, a list of scheduled meetings, and the Focus Areas.
- An Economic Development Partners section that describes all of the federal, state, local, and other partners that the WMRPC regularly works with on projects and programs.
- A Community Profile that describes the Region and each of the seven counties within Region 8.
- A Goals and Objectives segment that identifies both *organizational* goals and objectives and *community* goals and objectives
- A list of Community Projects including EDA specific projects, community development projects, and vital projects and strategies.
- A Plan of Action that identifies actions to address organizational goals.
- A list of Performance Measures.

## EDA Projects

The WMRPC worked two communities to move projects forward. The WMRPC assisted in developing and defining the projects and submitted preliminary information to EDA for their consideration. The WMRPC also coordinated meetings between EDA and the communities.

- EDA approved a grant to the **City of Reed City**, in Osceola County, for the amount of **\$1,630,000.00** to expand the City's wastewater treatment capacity. Expanded capacity is necessary because of the planned expansion of local businesses, including Yoplait Yogurt, which is located in the City's downtown. The expansion is a team effort between the City, Reed City's Downtown Development Authority, EDA, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), General Mills (Yoplait), and others.
- EDA approved a grant to the **Village of Howard City**, in Montcalm County, for the amount of **\$1,315,000.00** to expand the Village's wastewater treatment capacity. Expanded capacity is necessary because the Village's treatment facilities are at capacity, and this limits the ability of businesses to expand, or for new businesses to locate in the area's Renaissance Zone/Industrial Park. The improvements are a team effort between the Village, EDA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and others.
- The WMRPC assisted in both applications by describing Reed City's and Howard City's needs to EDA, explaining the benefits of the projects to EDA, and by getting EDA to the table in both communities in order to develop projects that address both communities' goals and EDA's Investment Criteria.
- Both of these projects began with the communities submitting the one-page submission form for inclusion in the CEDS to the WMRPC. This simple process alerted the WMRPC and EDA that a potential project exists. Both projects moved forward because the communities were interested in pursuing funding opportunities, so each sat down with the WMRPC and created a description of each project to submit to EDA. Once EDA was satisfied that the projects met their investment criteria, the EDA invited each of the communities to begin the application process. Both projects involved communicating the goals of each organization (communities and EDA) and working towards the common goal of improving our economy.

## Current Economic Development Initiatives

The WMRPC is currently working with several communities to bring projects to EDA for funding consideration.

- The WMRPC recently submitted a memo to EDA describing a unique project in the City of Plainwell (Allegan County) that will be a public/private partnership reusing an abandoned paper mill on the Kalamazoo River. The facility will be home to the City's offices, incubator space, and education facilities promoting renewable energy. Tourism will also be key to the project.
- The WMRPC is currently working with the City of Grand Rapids on two separate projects to submit for EDA's consideration. One is an incubator related to the health industry and the other is related to street improvements in an underutilized industrial area.
- The WMRPC is also in preliminary discussions with the Right Place Inc. related to a renewable energy/incubator project in Grand Rapids.

- The WMRPC continues to work with the City of Greenville on potential projects. The current project will relate to the need for expanded water/wastewater capacity to meet the demands of businesses, including United Solar Ovonic.
- The WMRPC spent much of June 2008 visiting 13 communities in Ottawa County to describe EDA and the potential eligibility of communities across Ottawa County. In the past, Ottawa County has not been eligible for assistance from EDA, but Michigan's current economic downturn is affecting incomes and unemployment rates. Additionally, Ottawa County has lost many jobs due to plant closings and consolidations. The visits created a lot of interest in EDA and will generate several potential projects. The first potential projects will probably come from the City of Hudsonville, which has several projects intended to improve business opportunities within the City (street realignments, property consolidation, etc.).

### **Interaction with EDA**

In addition to regular telephone calls, e-mails, and other routine interaction with EDA, the WMRPC had many opportunities to interact with EDA.

- The WMRPC Director attended the conference in Cleveland in May 2008.
- The WMRPC Director met with EDA in Chicago in November 2007.
- The WMRPC met with EDA in West Michigan on several occasions, including a meeting in May 2007 in Reed City, a meeting in Grand Rapids in September 2007, and a meeting in September 2007 in Howard City. Additionally, the WMRPC attended a meeting in January 2008 in Reed City representing EDA. In April 2007 the WMRPC met in Lansing to perform a peer review of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (with EDA). In June 2008 the WMRPC hosted a meeting between EDA, Howard City, and Reed City to inform both communities of their responsibilities related to their EDA Grants.

### **Current Initiatives (Other than Economic Development)**

While economic development and the relationship between communities, the WMRPC, and EDA is the primary focus of the WMRPC, there are several other initiatives coordinated by the WMRPC.

- The WMRPC receives an annual grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, (MDOT) to provide planning assistance to MDOT and local communities.
- The WMRPC works closely with Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council to develop a statewide asset management program. The Director serves on Michigan's Transportation Asset Management Council and the WMRPC coordinates the effort that involves MDOT, county road commissions, cities, villages, and the WMRPC physically evaluating the condition of Region 8's federally funded roadways. The WMRPC is currently in the sixth year of this program.
- The WMRPC coordinates the M-40/M-89 Corridor Committee, which meets quarterly and maintains a list of short and long-term transportation projects along the 27 mile long corridor in Allegan County.

- The WMRPC participates in the M-66 Corridor Committee, which meets quarterly and maintains a list of short and long-term transportation projects along the 24 mile long corridor in Ionia County.
- The WMRPC initiated the Greater Greenville Transportation Study and Committee in 2007. The group represents communities in three counties (Ionia, Kent, and Montcalm) and has made great efforts to identify key issues and goals related to transportation, economic development, and land use.
- The WMRPC is almost finished with developing a map of non-motorized facilities (a bicycle map) of West Michigan. The project is funded by MDOT.
- The WMRPC is very interested in wind energy and other renewable energy resources. The Director has attended several educational sessions related to wind turbines that have described the benefits of wind turbines and the challenges related to locating turbines (environmental, zoning, etc.). The WMRPC is currently seeking funds to perform a study related to locating wind turbines, preserving farmland, and providing economic benefits to communities.

### **Community Initiatives**

The WMRPC performs many plans and studies that directly benefit individual members, or groups of member communities. Some of the recent and ongoing initiatives include:

- City of Big Rapids Master Plan – The WMRPC is currently working with the City of Big Rapids, in Mecosta County, to update the City’s Master Plan. The planning process began in January 2008 and should be completed in spring 2009.
- Montcalm County Recreation Plan & Grant 2007-08 – Between 2007 and 2008 the WMRPC updated Montcalm County’s Recreation Plan and assisted in the successful application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a \$60,000.00 grant to build an accessible fishing pier in one of Montcalm County’s parks.
- Casco Township Recreation Plan & Grant – In 2007 the WMRPC developed a recreation plan for Casco Township and assisted in the successful application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund for a \$2,000,000.00 grant to acquire 15 acres of recreational land on Lake Michigan.
- Sherman Township Master Plan – The WMRPC updated Sherman Township’s (in Osceola County) master plan in 2007. The rural township had a variety of issues including the sudden interest in wind turbine companies due to the high elevation of the township.
- City of Allegan Recreation Plan – The WMRPC was just asked to update the City of Allegan’s Recreation Plan.
- Crystal Township Recreation Plan – The WMRPC updated the Township’s Recreation Plan in 2007. Over the years, Crystal has been very successful in seeking grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Ionia County Bertha Brock Park – The WMRPC assisted Ionia County in updating its goals related to recreation and park improvements in 2007.
- Osceola County Solid Waste Committee – The Director is currently serving on the Solid Waste Committee.
- Village of Lyons Recreation Plan – The WMRPC updated the Village of Lyon’s Recreation Plan in 2007.

- Allegan County Economic Development – The WMRPC has been meeting with Allegan County to assist in their decision-making process related to how to administer and promote economic development in the County.
- Eastown Business Association August 2007 – The WMRPC performed an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of Eastown Business District in the City of Grand Rapids.

### **Community Outreach**

The WMRPC has a variety of methods for promoting the region and the many programs it administers.

- The WMRPC sends its newsletter, *Region 8 Notes*, to nearly 700 community leaders and organizations. The newsletter is sent out every two months.
- The WMRPC provides a summary of activities for each member in July, along with a notice of how much dues will be for the coming year.
- The WMRPC maintains a web page. Visit [wmrpc.org](http://wmrpc.org) to see the latest information about Region 8.
- The WMRPC spent much of June 2008 visiting 13 communities in Ottawa County to describe EDA and the potential eligibility of communities across Ottawa County.
- The City of Grand Rapids continues to struggle financially. The City is currently considering not funding dues to the WMRPC in 2009. The Director has met twice with the City Commission and several times with individual City Commissioners and City Staff to describe the benefits of membership.
- The WMRPC regularly meets with County Boards. Recent meetings have occurred between the Director and the County Commission of Allegan, Mecosta, Osceola, and Ottawa counties.
- One of the best methods for community outreach is our Board Meetings and CEDS Committee Meetings, where elected and appointed officials regularly gather to share information.

### **Interaction with Other Planning and Economic Development Districts and Organizations**

In addition to working with our funding providers and our members, the WMRPC participates in several other community development organizations to remain current on topics of value to our member communities.

- The WMRPC Director is a member of the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) which provides education and networking opportunities throughout the year, and provides web updates almost daily.
- The WMRPC is an active participant with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), which is Michigan's primary economic development agency.
- The WMRPC is an active member of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR). MAR meets 8-10 times annually. The WMRPC also participated in the MAR Conference in July 2007 and the MAR Retreat in September 2007. The 2008 MAR Conference is July 16-18.

- Two staff members are members of the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) and the Director serves on MAP's Government Relations Committee. The Director and Planner attended the MAP Conference in October 2007 in Traverse City. The Director also attended training session in March and May 2008.
- The WMRPC still interacts with the West Michigan Strategic Alliance (WMSA), but not as frequently as in the past.
- The WMRPC regularly interacts with the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) on projects and other opportunities. Two staff members attended the GVMC conferences in June 2007 and June 2008.
- The Director is a member of the Grand Rapids Economic Club, which provides many opportunities to interact with a variety of public and private sector people and organizations.
- The WMRPC is a regular participant with Rural Partners. The Director and Chair attended the organization's conference in April 2007 and the Chair attended in April 2008 – and the Chair of the WMRPC also serves on the Board of Rural Partners.
- The WMRPC interacts with The Right Place Inc. (RPI) (the economic development organization for the Grand Rapids Area) in a variety of ways, including inviting speakers from the RPI to Board and CEDS Committee meetings, working to define projects, and attending the annual economic outlook (last one was in December 2007).
- Interacted with counties surrounding our region by inviting economic developers from Barry, Clinton, Newaygo, and Van Buren counties to speak at the CEDS Committee meeting in March 2008.
- The Director taught classes about regional planning and economic development to Public Administration students at Grand Valley State University in January 2007 and March 2008.
- The WMRPC continues to support programs related to urban and rural issues through the MSU Kent County Extension.
- Staff from the WMRPC attended training on the U.S. Census in April 2007 October 2007.
- The WMRPC sponsored a web cast in Grand Rapids by Michigan's Center for Regional Excellence in July 2007.
- The Director attended the Land Conservancy of West Michigan Conference in October 2007 (and he is a member).
- The Director attended the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan's Conference in April 2008 (and he is a member). Additionally, a staff person from the Center serves on the Board and Executive Committee of the WMRPC.

### **Administrative**

The WMRPC continues to administer all of the grants and programs, maintain an accurate accounting system, perform a variety of mailings, and perform many routine administrative tasks. Two additional tasks accomplished during the reporting period include:

- The WMRPC transitioned its books to new accounting software in August 2007.
- The WMRPC continued its tradition of trouble-free audits in October 2007.

## **Summary of Mid-Point Report**

The WMRPC feels that the transition to the three year grant program went very smoothly and that the WMRPC has accomplished many positive actions to benefit our member communities. The positive relationship that exists between the WMRPC and EDA's Chicago office is key to our successful EDA program.

## **JULY-SEPTEMBER 2008 UPDATE**

Since submitting the Mid-Point Progress Report on July 15, 2008, the WMRPC has continued to move forward and has made several additional efforts to promote economic development in Region 8.

- On July 7, 2008 the WMRPC Director visited the City of Hudsonville to tour the community and hear about a seven-phase approach the City would like to undertake to revitalize its business center, industrial areas, and other parts of the community.
- On July 10, 2008 the WMRPC Director met with officials from the City of Grand Rapids to develop a project description for two economic development projects.
- On July 16-18, 2008 the WMRPC Director attended the Michigan Association of Regions/Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference in Dearborn, Michigan.
- On July 22, 2008 the WMRPC Director submitted a report to the Director of Ottawa County Planning and Grants detailing visits that occurred in June and July 2008 to 13 communities within Ottawa County to describe EDA programs to the communities and to seek potential economic development projects.
- On July 23, 2008 the WMRPC Director coordinated a meeting between the Village of Marion, Osceola County EDC, and the WMRPC to discuss EDA programs and learn of a potential economic development project related to improving the Village's wastewater treatment facilities.
- The Director met with Montcalm County four times in July and August to develop a strategy for expanding transit services in the County.
- On July 29, 2008 the WMRPC Director facilitated a meeting of the M-40/M-89 Corridor Committee in Allegan County.
- On July 30, 2008 the WMRPC Director attended a meeting in the City of Big Rapids related to the ongoing master planning process.
- On August 4, 2008 the WMRPC Director attended a meeting in the City of Allegan to discuss issues related to transportation, recreation, and community development.
- On August 8, 2008 the WMRPC Director met with the Manager of the Village of Edmore to discuss EDA and to learn about a potential economic development project proposed on a vacated industrial site.
- On August 12, 2008 the WMRPC Director met with officials from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to promote working closer with Michigan's Regions.
- On August 13, 2008 the WMRPC hosted a meeting with EDA officials (Jack Price and Dennis Foldenauer). The meeting included three parts:
  - Meeting between WMRPC Director and EDA officials to describe potential projects and learn about current EDA initiatives
  - Meeting between EDA officials and WMRPC Director, Board Members, and CEDS Committee Members to hear how to improve the CEDS process
  - Meeting with the Right Place Inc. to discuss a potential project in the GrandWalk Area.
- The WMRPC Executive Committee met on August 15, 2008 to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, review the Director, and discuss the many ongoing projects.

- On August 18, 2008 the WMRPC Director met with an official from the City of Hudsonville to clarify a potential economic development project.
- On August 19, 2008 the WMRPC facilitated a meeting between USDA Rural Development and communities in the counties of Montcalm, Mecosta, and Osceola to learn of a special initiative to assist communities in distressed counties.
- On August 20, 2008 the WMRPC Director met with the Ionia County Planning Commission to discuss updating the County's Master Plan.
- On August 21, 2008 the WMRPC Director attended the M-66 Corridor Committee in Ionia County to learn about development projects and inform communities of EDA programs.
- On August 27, 2008 the WMRPC had a CEDS Committee Meeting. The Committee heard from the Michigan Department of Transportation, who described funding opportunities for economic development-related projects. The Committee also heard from several community development officials from the cities of Rockford, Grandville, Walker, and Grand Rapids Charter Township. The CEDS Committee also approved forwarding this document to EDA.
- The WMRPC Director is scheduled to attend a meeting in Wilmington, Ohio on September 11, 2008 to provide an overview to officials of Greenville and its experiences when Electrolux closed its doors.
- The WMRPC Board is scheduled to meet on September 19, 2008. Speaker is presenting on the Gerald Ford International Airport, proposed FY 2009 Budget adoption, and other standard agenda items to be discussed.
- The WMRPC Director and Chair are scheduled to attend an educational conference sponsored by the Michigan Association of Regions on September 23, 2008. The WMRPC Director is scheduled to be on a panel describing current economic development efforts in West Michigan.

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

In order to keep EDA up-to-date, it is essential to provide current information related to Region 8's economy. Currently, the WMRPC believes every member community in Region 8 is eligible to receive EDA funding due to the 24 month unemployment rate of each county, when compared to the national average.

**Table 3: Employment Data for the 24-Month Period between July 2006 and June 2008**

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
USA	153,067,000	145,814,000	7,253,000	4.7
Michigan	5,027,000	4,662,500	364,500	7.3
Region 8	610,081	571,804	38,277	6.7
Allegan County	56,546	52,956	3,590	6.3
Ionia County	31,456	29,095	2,361	7.5
Kent County	326,991	307,943	19,048	5.8
Mecosta County	20,309	18,784	1,525	7.5
Montcalm County	27,504	24,310	3,194	11.6
Osceola County	10,145	9,351	794	7.8
Ottawa County	137,130	129,365	7,765	5.7

Source: State of Michigan Labor Market Information; WMRPC

Table 3 shows that for the 24 month period beginning July 2006 and ending June 2008 that Region 8's overall unemployment rate was 6.7 percent, which is two percentage points above the national average for the reporting period. While Region 8's unemployment rate was considerably higher than the national average, it was lower than Michigan's average of 7.3 percent. Unemployment rates varied across Region 8, with Montcalm County having the highest unemployment rate of the seven counties (11.6 percent) and Ottawa having the lowest (5.7 percent). Three counties within Region 8 had lower unemployment rates than the region as-a-whole (Ottawa, Kent, and Allegan). The remaining four counties (Ionia, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Osceola) were higher than Region 8's average. Currently, all seven counties and the communities within each of the counties are eligible for EDA funding based on the 24-month unemployment rate.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT LIST**

Communities across Region 8 continuously plan for their futures and issues arise every year that each community could not easily anticipate with any amount of planning. Given these facts, the WMRPC solicited additional projects from communities by mailing out solicitation letters, working with the CEDS Committee, visiting communities, writing newsletters, and initiating meetings between EDA and communities. The following is a list of potential EDA projects that is not included in the 2007-2009 CEDS, or are more up-to-date versions of projects included in the 2007-2009 CEDS.

### **Capital Improvement Projects**

#### **City of Plainwell – Allegan County Public Private Employment Center**

##### **Description:**

This project will redevelop a 36-acre site that was the former location of the Plainwell Paper Mill; the former industrial site is a Brownfield and Superfund site. The property includes a one million square foot building that housed the paper mill, in addition to a millrace and the former site's wastewater treatment facilities. The City proposes to build a multi-use facility that will be a mixture of public and private uses where people will work, shop, learn, and interact with local government departments. Public uses will include relocated City offices. Other potential site tenants include a business incubator, an art incubator, and a renewable energy-based incubator. The surrounding grounds will include parking areas, recreation areas, and interpretive sites related to renewable energy education.

##### **Project Work:**

Proposed work will involve upgrades to the existing building, including demolition of some areas, renovation of both interior and exterior building features, accessibility improvements, parking, landscaping, refurbishment of the millrace, and water and sewer upgrades.

##### **Project Benefits:**

Benefits focus on reutilization of an historically significant facility within the community that will create jobs and educational opportunities, and encourage entrepreneurs to locate their businesses in Plainwell. Benefits also include increased tax base and the promotion of the area as a tourism and retail destination. The public-private partnership at the site will provide a location for City Offices, expand the City's Riverwalk, and create an unique and supporting atmosphere for entrepreneurs.

##### **Estimated Cost:**

\$2.0 million

## **City of Grand Rapids – Kent County Seward Avenue Improvements**

### **Description:**

Seward Avenue is a connecting corridor for industrial uses, local businesses, a major educational facility, and residential neighborhoods. Past improvements to the northern section of the corridor transformed a narrow, unsightly, and neglected street into an attractive boulevard lined with thriving businesses. This project will extend similar development to the south section of the avenue.

### **Project Work:**

Physical improvements will include re-alignment and widening of streets, the addition of boulevards, and corridor amenities such as sidewalks, signage, and street lights.

### **Project Benefits:**

The previously improved portions of the avenue defined the City's west side as a viable and vital business area, and the corridor now functions as a boulevard that showcases the area's businesses and public institutions. Past improvements added millions of dollars of value and hundreds of jobs to an area that was formerly underutilized. Implementation of this project will promote the continued growth of new and existing businesses in this area by opening up additional land and buildings for redevelopment. The City has identified potential economic development projects along the corridor that could result in at least \$985 million of investment and 1,190 jobs.

### **Estimated Cost:**

\$4.3 million

## **Grand Rapids and The Right Place, Inc. – Kent County West Michigan Center for Green Technology**

### **Description:**

The new facility will be located in a renovated 10,000 square foot building in Richmond Hills Park, which is in the "GrandWalk" area within the Cities of Grand Rapids and Walker. The GrandWalk area has mostly older industrial sites as well as parks and residential neighborhoods. The entire area is in need of redevelopment and revitalization. The project building will be redeveloped to meet LEED certification standards and also supplement the park's natural and built features. The facility will be a demonstration project and also serve as a training center for sustainable and renewable energy – related to the manufacturing and maintenance of products. There will also be incubator space within the facility to encourage entrepreneurs to develop sustainable products and services.

### **Project Work:**

Work involves both exterior and interior building renovations, structural and mechanical building alterations, and creation of a pilot project.

### **Project Benefits:**

The Center will create new jobs, facilitate additional jobs through education and business incubation, and generate the long-term revitalization of the GrandWalk Area. The jobs created will diversify the area's economy by developing new and innovative high-wage, high-skill jobs in an urban environment that is already well served by utilities and services. The Center will also promote Grand Rapids as a community that values and supports sustainable and renewable energy sources and practices.

**Estimated Cost:** \$4.0 million

### **City of Grand Rapids – Kent County Life Science Research Incubator**

**Description:**

This project will expand high tech incubator capabilities and capacity in Grand Rapids within the Grand Rapids SmartZone District. The development of new medical facilities and the expansion of existing facilities in the City and surrounding communities are creating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in investment. To accommodate all of this development and the need for additional space for life science research projects, the City of Grand Rapids proposes to develop a medical research incubator in the North Monroe area of the City, adjacent to the “Medical Mile”.

**Project Work:**

The project will provide the equipment, space, and support necessary for a life science research incubator, including land acquisition, construction of a new facility, and equipment purchase, in addition to staffing, marketing, and entrepreneur programming.

**Project Benefits:**

The new facility will be an integral part of the area's growing medical-related development by providing the resources that smaller entrepreneurs need to initiate businesses in the life science research field. The project will facilitate an economy of scale for small businesses that enables them to share expensive space and equipment that they would not otherwise be able to find or afford as start-up companies. This facility, along with all the other related development in the area, will encourage further investment in the community and provide opportunities to retain and attract medical professionals in Grand Rapids.

**Estimated Cost:**

\$10.6 million

### **Village of Edmore – Montcalm County Sunrise Commerce Center**

**Description:**

Hitachi Magnetics Corporation owned a 63 acre facility adjacent to the Village of Edmore. The site was donated to the Village and annexed by the Village. This proposed project will redevelop the 63 acre environmentally impaired site and redevelop it for industrial and commercial use.

**Project Work:**

Developing additional infrastructure and improving the existing infrastructure to accommodate businesses in the former industrial site.

**Project Benefits:**

Creating jobs in a former industrial site that has adequate public services provided by the Village of Edmore.

**Estimated Cost:**

\$3.55 million

**City of Reed City – Osceola County  
Business Incubator****Description:**

This project involves the acquisition, development, and operation of a business incubator in Reed City. The City would establish a partnership with Ferris State University, the Michigan Small Business & Technology Center, and USDA Rural Development in order to provide start-up businesses with affordable space and support services.

**Project Work:** The City would acquire an 85,000 square foot industrial facility that includes office space, work space, and storage area.

**Project Benefits:**

The incubator would provide facilities and services to new industrial, wholesale, retail, and service companies to enhance their opportunities for success.

**Estimated Cost:**

\$800,000

**City of Reed City – Osceola County  
Industrial Park****Description:**

The City of Reed City does not currently have an Industrial Park and neither does the surrounding Township.

**Project Work:**

Work involves the acquisition of land and development of a Certified Industrial Park for Reed City.

**Project Benefits:**

The Industrial Park would provide property suitable for development for manufacturing businesses and other industries.

**Estimated Cost:**

\$1.2 million

## **Village of Marion – Osceola County Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Improvements**

### **Description:**

The Village of Marion's wastewater treatment facilities are in need of upgrades to meet the future demands of the Village and the surrounding area and to allow businesses to expand and locate in the Village.

### **Project Work:**

Improvements include a meter for monitoring dissolved oxygen, additional equipment to ensure the facility is secure, repair and replacement of valves and pipelines at the facility, and repair of leaks in one of the paddies' leaking dykes.

### **Project Benefits:**

The proposed improvements will provide existing residents and businesses with a quality wastewater system. The project will also facilitate the location of new businesses in the vacant areas of the Village and the Village's industrial park. An estimated 300 jobs could be created by new businesses in the industrial park. The addition of new and expanded businesses in the Village and its industrial park would have a positive impact on the economy of the whole county, as well as surrounding counties.

### **Estimated Cost:**

\$3.0 million

## **City of Hudsonville – Ottawa County Hudson Creek Crossings**

### **Description:**

This project consists of retail development of a 7.5 acre site. Current commercial and residential uses at that location convey a negative impression of the City. Proposed development includes a new retail anchor store in addition to a service station / convenience store, plus one to three out lots for more new commercial development.

### **Project Work:**

Land acquisition, demolition of existing structures, site preparation, municipal water and sewer extensions, and road and parking lot improvements.

### **Project Benefits:**

The proposed project is critical to the future economic success of Hudsonville and is expected to act as a catalyst to continued development in the City's central business district.

### **Total Estimated Cost:**

\$12.0 million

## **Planning Projects**

### **WMRPC / The Right Place, Inc. – Kent County Center for Green Technology Feasibility Study**

This project will complete a feasibility study for the West Michigan Center for Green Technology (described above).

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$50,000

### **City of Reed City – Osceola County Industrial Park Feasibility Study**

This study will determine the optimal size and location for Reed City's first Industrial Park, as well as estimate the cost of development.

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$80,000

### **City of Reed City – Osceola County Trails Marketing Study**

The White Pine Trail State Park and the Pere Marquette Trail intersect in downtown Reed City. The trails are used year round by bikers, hikers, skaters, skiers, and snowmobilers. The City is also currently working on the Depot Project, which is a \$900,000 staging area / visitor information center located at the intersection of the trails. The marketing study would develop marketing and promotion strategies for the City and its local businesses that serve tourists who use the recreation facilities.

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$50,000

## **CONCLUSION**

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) was one of the first Economic Development Districts to participate in the three-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process established by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2006-2007. Recognizing that a three year period is a long time to go without addressing the changing needs of the 199 governmental units in the seven county area served by Region 8, the WMRPC created this 2008 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 CEDS.

The overall strategy established in the 2007-2009 CEDS remains as the foundation of the three-year strategy. This Supplemental Report identifies several additional projects, provides up-to-date WMRPC Board and CEDS Committee information, lists three additional sets of goals and objectives, and keeps the CEDS Committee active during the entire three-year period. Additionally, the Mid-Point Progress Report is included (and additional updates), to provide readers with an understanding of all of the efforts the WMRPC has made to promote economic and community development.

**2008 Supplemental Report to the 2007-2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

Applicant/Name (County) Project Description	Ratio of Local Match	Match \$ Secured	Preliminary Engineering Complete	Create Jobs	Retain Jobs	Letters of Commitment	Utilities Served	Project in Plan	Job-Cost Ratio	Community Distress	Project Points Totals
City of Grand Rapids (Kent) Seward Avenue Improvements	0	5	3	5	5	0	5	5	6	5	39
Village of Edmore (Montcalm) Sunrise Commerce Center	5	5	3	3	1	5	5	5	1	5	38
City of Grand Rapids (Kent) West Michigan Center for Green Technology	5	0	3	5	5	3	5	5	0	5	36
City of Reed City (Osceola) PP Trails Marketing Study	0	5	3	1	1	0	5	5	10	5	35
WMRPC/The Right Place, Inc. (Kent) PP Center for Green Technology Feasibility Study	0	5	0	1	1	0	5	5	10	5	32
City of Grand Rapids (Kent) Life Science Research Incubator	3	5	3	5	0	0	5	0	1	5	27
City of Reed City (Osceola) PP Industrial Park Feasibility Study	0	5	0	1	0	0	5	5	5	5	26
City of Reed City (Osceola) Business Incubator	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	5	5	5	25
City of Hudsonville (Ottawa) Hudson Creek Crossings	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	5	1	3	24
City of Plainwell (Allegan) Public Private Employment Center	0	0	5	1	1	3	5	5	0	5	25
City of Reed City Industrial Park	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	1	5	17
Village of Marion (Osceola) Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	0	0	3	1	1	0	5	0	0	5	15