

JOINT GOVERNMENTAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
Wednesday, January 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. in the Escanaba City Council Chambers, Room C101, 410 Ludington Street, Escanaba, Michigan, Delta County.

Present: David Nyberg, Director of Governor Rick Snyder's Northern Michigan Office, Lois Ellis, Business Development Manager – Region 1 of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Scott Erbish County of Marquette Administrator, Escanaba City Mayor Marc D. Tall, Escanaba City Manager James V. O'Toole, Escanaba City Clerk Robert S. Richards, Gladstone Mayor Joe Maki, Delta County Commission David Rivard, Steve Rose of Cornell Township, Dennis Maufort of Brampton Township, Christine Groleau of Nahma Township, Wells Township Supervisor William Farley, Vicki Schwab of the Economic Development Alliance, Jody Norman and Van Marenger of the Delta County Road Commission, and members of the public and media.

Escanaba City Manager Jim O'Toole called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

NEW BUSINESS

Update – Lois Ellis, Business Development Manager – Region 1 – Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Lois Ellis, Business Development Manager – Region 1 of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation provided an update on the MEDC Next Michigan Development Program and other programs managed and offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which included, Economic Gardening Program, Pure Michigan Business Connect Programs, and the Next MI Dev Corporation.

Update – Central U.P. Micropolitan Economic Development Project.

An update was provided on the progress being made in amending the Next Michigan Development Act for the creation of the Central U.P. Micropolitan Economic Development District.

- Delta and Marquette Counties would need to apply for the special designation and have the application approved before any corporation could take advantage of tax cuts and state funding;
- Kevin Korpi of Acuitas Public Affairs and Advocacy, Consultants hired by the City of Escanaba, reviewed the Status of the Central U.P. Micropolitan Economic Development District and what needed to occur next:
 - All partners needed to work together to build on the work completed by Delta and Marquette Counties;
 - Reviewed the steps needed in the application process and the analysis of the district including an economic impact study of the region, a district map, and a list of local governmental units. Once the steps were completed, an application could be made with the assistance of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC);
 - Incentives for economic growth included creation of a Renaissance Zone for Tax Abatements, improving multi-mobile transportation commerce, establishing a local development financing tax such as a tax increment financing (TIF), and seeking personal property tax abatements;

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- MEDC would also offer tools for business development based on job creation and investment.

Those in attendance provided Items of Mutual Interest and Concern in their municipalities, and obtained a brief explanation from Dave Nyberg regarding the State of Michigan Budget surplus.

Next scheduled meeting was February 12, 2014.

Hearing no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Robert S. Richards, Escanaba City Clerk, Recording Secretary