

Power of We Consortium **Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2012**

Present: Angela Austin, Vincent Delgado, Derrell Slaughter, Katy Joe DeSantis, Becky Jo Farmington, Jason Meyer, Hanna Obbink, John Duley, Bill Nelton, Maureen Hirten, Randy Rauch, Tim Nester, Julie Powers, Graham Pierce, Susan Moriarty, Renee Canady, Ken Sperber, Sarah Lundquist-Harger, Joan Nelson, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Greta Wu, Paul Miller, Theresa Squires, Gina Aldridge, Randy Bell, Katie Ellero, Kim Thalison, Nikki Ayres, Freya Rivers, Christian Scott, Terry Link, Regina Allen, LeeAnna Olson, Hi Fitzgerald, John Roy Castillo, Fathy Shetiah, Dawn VanHalst, Derrick Jones, Harold Pope, Sue Pigg, Bob Trezise, Peggy Roberts.

Welcome, introductions and announcement

Co-chair Angela Waters opened the meeting and asked for introductions and announcements.

Action

Consortium membership and leadership for 2010

We will consider the recommendations of our Nominations Committee for community partners, community representatives, and a co-chair for 2012. Joan Nelson and Peggy Vaughn-Payne will present the recommendations on behalf of the Committee and request member support. (See Attachment A for slate of nominees)

Angela asked Joan Nelson and Peggy Vaughn-Payne, on behalf of the nominations committee, to present the slate of new member nominations for approval by the membership for 2012:

- **Vincent Delgado** was approved by the membership for a new 2-year term as *Power of We Consortium* Co-chair.
- **Current Community Partner Organizations** were approved for continued membership, with slight changes/updates to the names for: MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (change to just MSU); and for Ingham Regional Medical Center (change to MacLaren Greater Lansing)
- **New Community Partner Organizations** were approved for membership: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program (IYEP); Lansing Black Chamber of Commerce; Michigan Disability Rights Coalition; Mid-MEAC; One Love Global; Peckham, Inc.
- These **current Community Representatives** were approved to continue their membership: Marcus McKissic; Marvin Cato, Lynne Martinez, Regina Allen, Alex Bryan, Lori Eva, Katina Matthews.
- **New Community Representatives** were approved for membership: Terry Link; Harold Pope; Freya Rivers; and Derrell Slaughter.

Dialogue for Collective Impact

Community and Economic Development in the Capital Area:

*The Power of We Consortium welcomes two guest presenters, **Bob Trezise** (President & CEO of Leap, Inc) and **Susan Pigg** (Executive Director of Tri County Regional Planning Commission). While both are new to their current positions, Trezise and Pigg bring long track records of successful contributions to the field of economic development.*

Bob Trezise opened the dialogue with an overview of Leap, Inc. and the many changes he has begun to initiate. Leap has been operational for 5 years with a charge to improve economic development for the tri-county area. Recently the State of Michigan split the state into 10 regions with one organization to guide economic development for each region. Leap has been appointed that organization to oversee the SmartZone for the tri-county area and will work closely with MEDC and the state to think globally in its initiatives. A totally new staff has been hired with a new budget and program outline.

Bob stated that while he recognizes that many people are hurting during this economic downturn, many exciting things are happening. He said that Lansing has long been “complacent” due to its history of successful manufacturing, the University system, and the Capital, but that complacency is no longer working. Bob cited several polls that rank Lansing on the upswing in terms of desirability and job growth potential and expects Lansing to become an economic “giant”. Bob further stated that up to now Leap has been more of a marketing organization with a focus on trying to change the image of Lansing via marketing. His approach will be to change the image by creating new things via business development and entrepreneurialism.

Sue Pigg presented that community development and economic development are integral to each other – you can’t do one without the other. Tri County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) was established in 1956 as part of a continuum to coordinate with county commissions, municipalities, etc. Part of TCRPC’s role is to generate databases, lists, spreadsheets, maps, and other data tools on various topics at various levels of detail. This regional vision includes planning for transportation, land use, surface and ground water protection, economic development, etc. Much effort goes into securing funding, satisfying federal government regulations, and collecting plans from planners across the tri-county region.

Sue also talked about the \$3 million HUD grant that TCRPC applied for, with multiple partners, and will receive shortly. Including partner contributions of cash and in-kind resources, the project will become worth \$6-7 million. In 1998 TCRPC and partners received a federal grant for a 5-year process by which public convenings brought forth future plans, analysis of resources, and analysis of trends. From that process the Regional Growth Project was born, which included 213 goals for the region. Many of those goals were reached.

This new HUD grant will allow the region to ask the question: “How do we develop plans for sustainability for our region?” Forty community partner organizations are on the board to manage this grant. The plan is to utilize the corridor from the Capitol to Webberville as a laboratory to gather data. Using charrettes, audits, housing studies, etc, the corridor will serve as the microcosm of the whole region for planning purposes. Current initiatives such as Greening of Mid-Michigan, Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets, etc will all be included in this process. Also, a web portal will be created for regional wide communication opportunities.

Following this presentation of information from Bob and Sue, each table pod was asked to consider the following questions in small group discussion:

- Do you believe we need economic development in the way of creation of jobs and income?
- What kind of jobs should we be attracting, retaining?
- What innovative and creative ways are there to do this?

Small groups reported back to the whole group with questions and comments.

- Concern expressed that there aren't enough jobs that exist, or being created, for folks in lower income ranges, with lesser education. Bob commented that the loss of the middle class is a challenge to capitalism. He stated that the auto industry and insurance industry both still can provide jobs to this group. Currently, there are \$14/hr jobs with health care and pensions, but \$6-8/hr jobs are hard to find.
- Comment made that attention must be given to principles around the type of jobs we should be encouraging:
 - equitable (with job investment in marginalized populations);
 - sustainable (rooted in a place, and not going to outsource);
 - humane economic development (where we drive the economy, not economy drives us).
- Comment made that the United Nations declared this the Year of the Cooperative. Cooperatives are growing around the world and should be encouraged and increased in our area.
- Need to invest in local nonprofits, not just in public stock market.
- Triple bottom line must be the standard, not just the single bottom line, which uses only the economic definition of return on investment. What about the quality of life as a return on investment? (Bob indicated he would be interested to learn more about these last two comments)
- Comment made that the powers that be need to consider the quality of life and environmental impact when bringing in businesses to the area, and that neighborhood folks need to be consulted prior to action.
- Bob commented on his concern that incentives for economic development have been eliminated by the Governor by way of eliminating certain tax rebates.
- Comment made that we must think beyond the 3 county system with a much more global lens.
- Comment that when all populations – those that have power as well as those that have little power – are included in decision making, all will benefit.

Next meeting of the Power of We Consortium – Friday, February 17, 2012