

**Focus Macomb: A Partnership for Economic Development
Business Development Committee Meeting
May 23, 2007
Community Central Bank
Summary**

Members Present:

Maria Stella Castronova – Stella Specialty Sweets
Michael Claassen – Schaeffler Group
Jim Daniels – Romeo Expeditors, Inc.
Melanie Davis – Macomb Chamber
Damiano DiMercurio – Dilusso Building Companies
John Hill – Midwest Mold
Rick Kincaid – K & F Electronics
Diana Kolakowski – City of Warren
Jim Krause – LongShot Golf Inc./Acculabel Company
Ed Kubes – Lakeside Mall
Jack Murphy – Fidelity National Title Company
Vito Pianello – The Private Bank
Bill Quinlan – Quinlan Assoc. Architect
Ron Reed – Community Central Bank
Ronald Robinson – Ronald E. Robinson, CPA PC
Ted Schollenberger – Mineral Springs Development
Grace Shore – Central Macomb Chamber of Commerce
Terence Thomas – St. John Health
Chester Zochowski – REI Group

Members Not Present:

William Andre – Hydra-Lock Corporation
Luke Bonner – City of Sterling Heights
Ron Chriss – DTE Energy
Larry Humphrey – Burtek, Inc.
Brian Kern – J.G. Kern Enterprises
Michael Malone – Planners in Architecture

Liaison and Staff: Kathy Vosburg
Macomb County Board of Commissioners
Sharon Laskowski, Lauren Royston, Maria Zardis
Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Opening: Co-Chairs Rick Kincaid and Ron Reed opened the meeting at noon.

Introduction: As a means of beginning the first meeting, each member was asked to introduce themselves and provide background information of interest to others in attendance.

Highlight: The members provide a wide diversity of expertise and look forward to participating in Focus Macomb's economic development efforts.

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Overview: Mr. Reed reviewed the committee's proposal. The proposal will establish an ongoing committee to provide advice to the MCPED as well as promote successful business growth in Macomb County. Discussion covering a wide range of topics ensued.

Highlights:

- Incubators for start-up businesses are an important issue. What can the committee do to promote incubators at the county level? A list of possible funding sources for incubator development is forthcoming.
- An office for Automation Alley representatives has been located in the county's Administration Building. The chambers of commerce should be aware of the services provided by the agency.
- Create a higher profile for economic development in the county. Various promotional activities, such as networking, newsletters, websites and trade missions were suggested. The MCPED is expanding its economic development staff to assist in business attraction and retention efforts.
- The Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County promotes tax base expansion and job retention. Kent County also has a similar program. The programs could be studied as models for Macomb County.
- Venture capital is available for high-tech businesses. Locate sources of such funding.
- Develop a successful strategy for applying for and obtaining government contract work.
- Assist and promote home-based businesses. The SBTDC has counselors that provide assistance with business plans, etc. The MSU cooperative Extension offers classes in response to the community's needs.
- The importance of prioritizing issues was emphasized.
- Sub-committees will be formed and their meeting schedules will be under discussion.
- The committee voted to address the County Executive issue.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2007 at noon. The meeting will be held at the Community Central Bank which is located at 120 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, MI.

Closing: The Focus Macomb Business Development Committee Meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.

