



County of Ottawa

Administrator's Office

Alan G. Vanderberg
County Administrator

12220 Fillmore Street, Room 331, West Olive, Michigan 49460

(616) 738-4068

e-mail: avanderberg@miottawa.org

County Administrator's Weekly Digest April 16, 2010

2009 ADMINISTRATIVE SURVEY

The 2009 County Administrative Services survey results have been tabulated and are included as a file attachment to the Digest email message (Results-Charts 2009.doc). We plan to complete the survey at least every other year to track how we are doing.

KEITH VANBEEK ICMA CREDENTIALLED MANAGER

Congratulations to Keith Van Beek who has earned Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association. The credential acknowledges Keith's experience, education and commitment to education and lifelong learning in the field of local government management.

Credentialed managers must meet ongoing educational requirements and after five-years must complete a 360 performance review which is pretty extensive and thorough, I completed my 360 a couple of years ago.

The press release regarding this significant achievement is attached to the Digest email message.

NATURE EDUCATION CENTER GRAND OPENING AND DEDICATION (John Scholtz)

Ottawa County Parks will dedicate its new Nature Education Center on Saturday, April 24 with a grand opening and dedication ceremony. The Nature Education Center is located at Hemlock Crossing, a county park located on West Olive Road in Port Sheldon Township. From US 31, travel west on Croswell Street a short distance to West Olive Road and then travel south for one-half mile to the park entrance.

The Grand Opening will follow an open house format with the doors opening at 10 a.m. Live music by the Blue Water Ramblers will begin at noon. A formal dedication ceremony will occur at 1:00 p.m. The open house will conclude at 4:00 p.m. Kid's nature activities will be ongoing throughout the day as will a self guided nature trail. Friends of Ottawa County Parks will provide refreshments. Things to do at the Nature Education Center include a visit to the Wildlife Den, browse the Nature Gift Shop, view the new exhibits, view photography by local photographer John Dykstra, see the unique donor tree, tour the center and learn about the center's LEED certification.

The 8,000 square foot center, located near the Pigeon River, houses outdoor education functions of the county parks department and enables the Parks Commission to expand its educational programs in line with the growth of the park system. The department's two full-time naturalists and a variety of part-time staff work out of the new center which also functions as a visitor center for the entire county park system. The new facility is designed for energy efficiency with geo-thermal heating and cooling and a goal of LEED certification at the gold level.

The center includes a multi-purpose room, circular rotunda/orientation area that houses eight exhibits, a classroom, wildlife viewing room, a small reference library, a gift area and office and work space for nature center staff and volunteers.

HOLLAND AREA CHAMBER – COUNTY BUDGET PRESENTATION

June, Connie and Keith presented the budget (I was in Lansing for a meeting) to a Holland Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs meeting this morning. Staff reports that excellent feedback was obtained. This is the third in the series of taking the budget to the people. Previous meetings were held on a bus (presentation to Farm Bureau leadership) and at the Sunset Manor in Georgetown. We are attempting to secure one more date with the Grand Haven Area Chamber of Commerce.

SCANDIA WIND ENERGY PROPOSAL

A small group of Commissioners and staff met with Scandia representatives Tuesday. Scandia previously held a meeting with various parties in Muskegon. After this meeting, the media reported that a proposal seeking Muskegon and Ottawa County approval for location of wind turbines off the shore of Grand Haven had been discussed. Ottawa had not been invited to this meeting and were unaware of the proposal. Scandia representatives asked for a meeting to present the same Powerpoint presentation that had been presented in Muskegon. Commissioners Swartout and Ruiters, representing the impacted area, Chair Kuyers, Vice-Chair Holtrop, Greg Rappleye, Mark Knudsen, Nate Lisenbee, Keith Van Beek and I were there to hear the presentation.

Scandia is asking Muskegon and Ottawa counties to approve the concept of the project. We need to keep in mind that county government does not have any control of the bottomlands of Lake Michigan so has no real authority to approve such a request. Scandia is looking for political approval so they can take that to Lansing to achieve State legal changes necessary to allow the project. We informed them that much more information would be needed and that the Board would certainly want to work closely with the Grand Haven area if it did take the issue up. The next step if there is one would be a Board work session the topic but that is premature at this time. Information has been placed in each Commissioner mailbox regarding this proposal.

ROAD COMMISSION UPDATE MEETING

Phil, Don, Roger, Keith, Mark and I meet quarterly with Kent Rubley, Brett and one Road Commissioner to informally discuss road issues. MDOT has been attending these meetings to provide Bypass updates but were not able to make this weeks meeting. Keith completed the following meeting notes and we are providing these in order to keep the entire board in the loop.

Ottawa County – Board of Commissioners/Road Commission

Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Notes

April 14, 2010

3:00 PM

Attendees: Don Disselkoe – Commissioner, Roger Rycenga – Commissioner, Kent Rubley – Road Commission Managing Director, Brett Laughlin – Road Commission Engineer, Al Vanderberg – County Administrator, Keith Van Beek – Assistant County Administrator.

Update – US-31/M-231 Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dennis Kent from MDOT was not able to attend to provide an update on the status of US-31/M-231, but provided an email update on the status, which is provided below:

“Basically, MDOT is assembling the various parts of the Record of Decision (ROD), per FHWA direction, including comments from state and federal agencies, and one Native American Tribe. We received the final concurrence letter, with comments, from the US Army Corps of Engineers late last week. FHWA is reviewing some of the comments and preliminary drafts MDOT has provided. MDOT is planning to send a final draft ROD to FHWA on Wednesday (April 14). FHWA will have additional comments. We hope that ROD can be signed by

FHWA by May 1st, so that we can proceed with the design and right-of-way process, and begin construction later this year or early in 2011.”

Other Topics

The group quickly reviewed or mentioned the following topics;

- Broad discussions regarding funding for roads at the state level
- Washouts and recent rain event:
 - While the road culvert has been replaced on 32nd as a result of 2009 rain events, the area still has other potholes that were not part of that repair and sediment from the area still tends to be washed onto the road in that area.
 - From rains last week a shoulder on Riley east of 72nd was washed out and a culvert on New Holland west of 108th.
- Don will discuss further with Kent the possibility of going on WHTC to publicize the road commission's 5-year plan and also the state asset management report
- Kent distributed handouts regarding the lower level and cost of winter maintenance required this year. Will be recommending to the road commission to re-institute the gravel program this year to use that funding that is available.

Meeting Schedule

- August 4, 9 AM
- October 27, 9 AM

NEW ECONOMY TRAINING (Adam Kantrovich)

Attached to the digest message is a press release and a flyer about our upcoming workshops about this New Economy we find ourselves in. Please forward this to those you feel would benefit from this. Registration is required so we know how many individuals to expect. Programs may be canceled if there is not enough registrants. The first local programs occur next week.

Administrative Survey - 2009

In 2005, 23 responses were collected and scored. In 2007, the survey was not administered. The results of 2009 are based upon 13 responses.

Table 1: Average Ratings by Category by Department

	Understanding Needs	Timeliness	Willingness to Work	Communication	Share Information	Service Quality	Policies	Future Planning	Overall Satisfaction
Administrator	3.69	3.83	4.08	3.92	3.67	3.67	3.58	3.92	3.77
Budget – Fiscal	3.69	4.33	4.00	3.85	4.08	4.31	3.85	3.69	4.15
Purchasing – Fiscal	3.33	3.77	3.69	3.46	3.69	3.92	3.46	3.25	3.62
Accounting – Fiscal	3.53	4.15	3.69	3.69	3.69	4.15	3.46	3.23	3.77
Human Resources	3.85	4.23	4.31	4.15	4.15	4.15	3.92	3.83	4.23
Planning and Performance Improvement	2.92	3.89	3.45	3.55	3.50	3.33	3.30	3.45	3.33
Corporate Counsel	3.92	3.46	4.31	3.77	3.77	4.08	3.92	3.75	4.00
Facilities	3.75	4.00	3.92	3.67	3.67	4.00	3.67	3.50	3.83
GIS – IT	4.27	4.45	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.17	4.33	4.20	4.17
User Services – IT	4.00	4.31	4.23	4.08	3.85	3.92	3.83	3.83	3.92
Apps & Data – IT	3.77	3.46	4.00	3.69	3.69	3.92	3.67	3.54	3.77
Tech & Infrastructure - IT	3.92	3.77	4.15	3.92	3.77	4.00	3.67	3.54	3.77
Overall Average	3.72	3.97	4.03	3.81	3.79	3.97	3.72	3.64	3.86

Table 2: Change in Performance in Last Year & Overall Satisfaction

	% Improved	% Declined	% Same
Administrator	15	8	77
Fiscal Overall	0	0	100
Budget – Fiscal	8	0	92
Purchasing – Fiscal	0	15	85
Accounting – Fiscal	8	23	69
Human Resources	54	8	38
Planning and Performance Improvement	0	25	75
Corporate Counsel	15	0	85
Facilities	0	8	92
IT Overall	11	0	89
GIS – IT	33	0	67
User Services – IT	50	0	50
Apps & Data – IT	0	8	92
Tech & Infrastructure - IT	8	8	84



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Al Vanderberg
Ottawa County Administrator
(616) 738-4068

Keith Van Beek Credentialed

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Keith Van Beek, Assistant County Administrator of Ottawa County, recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the premier local government leadership and management organization. Mr. Van Beek is one of 1,200 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field, and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

Keith Van Beek is qualified by 12 years of professional local government executive experience. Prior to his appointment in Ottawa County, he served as Deputy Administrator for the City of Kentwood.

For more information regarding the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program, contact Amanda Relyea at ICMA, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., #500, Washington, D.C. 20002-4201; arelyea@icma.org; 202-962-3556 (phone); 202-962-3565 (fax).

ICMA is the premier local government leadership and management organization. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and advocating professional management of local government worldwide. ICMA provides member support: publications, data, and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to more than 9,000 city, town, and county experts and other individuals throughout the world.

###

100 FREE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN 60 DAYS

Michigan State University will lead 100 training programs in 60 days throughout the state. The Michigan Prosperity Initiative (MPI) is an important partnership between Michigan State University, the State of Michigan, regional councils of government and Michigan's local governments to better prepare Michigan to compete in the global New Economy.

- Trainings will start April 19 and conclude June 16, 2010 .
- In more than 50 locations across the state.
- FREE and open to everyone.

The MSU Land Policy Institute and MSU Extension are leading these training programs.

NEW ECONOMY 101, 201, 301

There are three separate training programs: New Economy 101, 201 and 301. Each is progressively more complex, with 101 being intended for general audiences.

NE 101: Fundamentals of the New Economy for anyone with an interest in how Michigan got into its current economic circumstances, and what it will take to get out. 2 hours.

NE 201: Place-Based Regional Economic Planning for those that attended NE 101, professionals and representatives of key stakeholders who want to learn how to develop regional economic development strategies that are based on unique place-based assets. 4 hours.

NE 301: Strategies to Bridge the Gap for those that attended NE 101 and 201, and planning and economic development professionals who value training on underutilized economic analysis tools and how to apply them to concrete actions we need to take locally and regionally to improve prosperity in Michigan. 6 hours.

The training programs are all FREE! There is a small charge for handouts (which can also be downloaded online for free). Master Citizen Planners can earn CEUs (for a nominal charge). The MPI website has more details, including specific training schedules for locations around the state. There is a location near you. Don't delay! Register today! Space is limited!

Register online at
www.landpolicy.msu.edu/MPI

PARTNERS

Michigan State University
Michigan Department of Energy,
Labor & Economic Growth
Michigan Economic
Development Corporation
Michigan Association of Regions
Michigan Association
of Planning
Michigan Municipal League
Michigan Townships
Association
MSU Extension
MSU Land Policy Institute
MSU Michigan Citizen Planner
Program
Planning & Zoning Center
at MSU



Michigan Prosperity Initiative

877.436.0002 Ext. 100 Fax: 517.432.8769
3rd Floor Manly Miles Building
1405 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
MPI@landpolicy.msu.edu
www.landpolicy.msu.edu/MPI

MSU's Michigan Prosperity Initiative to Conduct "New Economy" Training in Holland, Michigan on April 20, 2010.

Contact: John Kinch, MSU Land Policy Institute, 517.432.8800 x 111, kinch@landpolicy.msu.edu

EAST LANSING, Mich. Michigan State University (MSU) is leading a new, statewide program aimed at educating citizens and local leaders on today's global New Economy—and offering strategies to rebuild economies at the local, regional and state level in Michigan.

Starting April 19, MSU and partners will conduct 100 free training sessions over a span of 60 days in locations across the state. In Ottawa County, the first

"This is ambitious and urgent work," said Soji Adelaja, director of the MSU Land Policy Institute, which along with MSU Extension is spearheading the outreach and education of the Michigan Prosperity Initiative.

"Michigan has been hurting a long time—much longer than other states in our current national recession. Our communities are ready for change. This is an opportunity for citizens and leaders across the state to enhance their understanding of the New Economy, and how they can help their communities in building their economic futures."

The trainings will take place in three rounds with the first being an introduction to the New Economy intended for all residents. The first round of trainings, titled New Economy 101, will take place in mid-April and early May. **In Ottawa County New Economy 101 will be offered at the MSU Bioeconomy Institute located at 242 Howard Avenue, Holland on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Other West Michigan locations include the Kent County MSU Extension Office, 775 Ball Avenue NE, Grand Rapids on April 20 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and the MATS Administration Office and Louis A. McMurray Conference Center located at 2624 Sixth Street in Muskegon Heights on Monday, April 26 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Subsequent trainings will be geared more toward local officials and professionals so they can help create strategies for their communities that will complement new regional strategic growth plans more reflective of New Economy realities. These plans, also as part of this initiative, will be linchpins for communities rebuilding their economies and perhaps garnering federal funding, MSU researchers and state officials believe.

Jon Coleman is the Executive Director of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and secretariat of the Michigan Association of Regions, which has formally endorsed the Michigan Prosperity Initiative.

"On behalf of Michigan's regions, I want to commend MSU's investments in these training programs and their assistance to regional planning commissions in helping to create regional strategic growth plans," he said. "The more Michigan citizens and stakeholders understand the opportunities under the New Economy the faster we can return Michigan to prosperity by working together."

The Michigan Prosperity Initiative is supported by the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth; Michigan Economic Development Corp.; the Michigan Townships Association; the Michigan Municipal League; the Michigan Association of Planning; and the 14 State Planning and Development Regions.

While the trainings are all free and open to everyone, registration is required. For more information, visit www.landpolicy.msu.edu/MPI.