

MACKINAC ECONOMIC ALLIANCE
Directors Report
April 14, 2014

The list of Mackinac County Brownfield commercial properties is ready for submission to Denise Elizondo, Economic Development Liaison for Lake Superior Community Partnership. Denise will upload site listings onto the Michigan Economic Development County site using the template MEDC developed for this purpose. In order to assist Mackinac County in gathering information about prospective brownfield properties that are for sale by owner Denise has provided a listing form for distribution. Mackinac County Brownfield Authority and MEA Board members are encouraged to take these forms and make them available to eligible owners.

The Alliance has partnered with EUP Regional Planning to develop methods to obtain accurate data for Mackinac County. Working with Northern Michigan University's School of Education and Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship MEA and EUP Regional Planning are focused on gathering the most correct figures for population, household income, migration, and workforce education attainment in the County. Another objective is to define what it means to be employed and what constitutes a FTE employee. The goal is to complete this work so that local data is ready by the time the Bureau of Labor Statistics posts on June 19, 2014.

After reviewing a number of candidates I am pleased to report that Rebecca Bolen has accepted an offer to work for MEA on a contractual basis. Rebecca is from Grand Rapids and Rudyard. Initially she will be working to complete the Safe Routes to School Grant for Clark Township, and the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to establish a Revolving Loan Fund for Mackinac County.

On behalf of MEA Amy Polk and Anne Ottaway met with Matthew Ginoc of MCG Web Development in Levering. We reviewed a potential website design for Mackinac Economic Alliance as well as the various navigation tabs needed. Matthew will be using a platform that allows MEA to easily revise, add and update content. And since he has already updated the Mackinac County and St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce websites MEA will benefit from a cost savings from already developed content.

Over the past year MEA has been working with North Central Michigan College to identify specific ways of advancing vocational education opportunities in Mackinac County. Last June representatives from Mackinac County Schools and Mackinac Straits Hospital met with Deans from NCMC to discuss some specific ideas for offering vocational or certification credit hours for classes taken at area high schools. At that time it was decided that exploring a Dual Enrollment Program through NCMC was worth pursuing. EUP CAN and MEA facilitated discussions for implementation. MEA is prepared to work with any university or college to advance programs that make career and vocational education more accessible to high school students in Mackinac County. This is one of MEA's highest priorities.