

MACKINAC ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Directors Report

January 27, 2014

At the January meeting of the Mackinac County Redevelopment Authority the matter of an inventory of brownfield properties for sale was discussed. Brownfield Board members recognize the need to compile this inventory and MEA board members concurred. In an effort to standardize information gathering process it was decided that MEA would use the template developed by MEDC for this purpose. MEA will work with Mackinac County realtors and officials in each township to identify brownfield properties for sale. This is an activity specified in the services MEA has agreed to provide Mackinac County under the proposed Contract.

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners approved a Contract with Mackinac Economic Alliance at their meeting on January 23, 2014. A copy of the contract will be circulated for MEA Board members to review as well as to give MEA Chairman John Kling the authority to sign on behalf of MEA.

MEA has placed a classified ad in the St. Ignace News for a part time Administrative Assistant. The ad will run for 4 weeks unless a candidate is hired sooner. Applicants have been requested to send in their materials electronically. In the event that a majority vote of the MEA Board will be necessary to employ a part time assistant the matter will be brought to the Board at the February meeting.

One of the specific services MEA has agreed to perform under their contract with Mackinac County is the development and execution of a marketing plan to facilitate the sale and/or re- development of the Old Mackinac County Hospital. To that end MEA has identified and reached out to two developers of low-income housing.

After learning about a grant program to cover the costs of targeted brownfield assessments MEA is completing the DEQ application on behalf of Mackinac County for the old hospital property. The relevant data to attach to the application is now being gathered and the application will be filed with the DEQ by 2/15.

MEA is now taking sole responsibility for coordinating a dual enrollment class offering between North Central Michigan College and La Salle High School in St. Ignace. Though there were not enough students signed up to take the NCMC class this term MEA is meeting directly with La Salle HS Guidance Counselor, Connie Olson to adequately promote the program for the next semester.

MEA has asked Bud Chamberlain to join its Board. A long standing resident of Curtis Bud has owned an operated Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn for over 20 years. Bud is also the President of the Curtis Chamber of Commerce. He is a welcome addition to the MEA Board offering us an economic development perspective from the west end of the County.