

Arenac County EDC

Meeting Minutes



Location: Arenac County Building
Room 201

October 9th, 2025

- I. Call to Order: 8:30am
- II. Roll Call: Harold Woolhiser, Abbie Golimbieski, Leona Daniels, Shelly DuCharme, Kim Nelson, Deb Morgan, Pat Killingbeck, Julie Hazeltine, Mike Stodolak, Dale Wiltse
 - a. Absent: Bob Balzer, Jennifer Pierson, Amanda Lauzon, Curt Hillman, Brad Mason
 - b. Guest: Darren Kroczaleski, Kirk Olson, Dennis Whitney, Rich Van-Tol, Chris Ming
- III. Guest Speaker (see attached PowerPoint slides): Rich Van-Tol- Bay- Arenac ISD
 - a. Rich presented on the Bay-Arenac ISD Child Care Partnerships and is seeking interest in Arenac County to open childcare facilities
- IV. Meeting Minutes/Secretary's Report:
 - a. Approval of September Meeting Minutes: Motion-Leona Daniels, Approved: Kim Nelson
- V. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion-Deb Morgan, Approved: Kim Nelson
- VI. Director's Report (attached) included in report:
 - a. Jennifer sent out a SWOT analysis coordinated with EMCOG to identify the regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Jennifer would like input from all board members so that Arenac County's priorities and opportunities are accurately represented at the regional level. Forward ideas and feedback to Jennifer by the end of today or tomorrow morning. The Rural Readiness Grant Program is slated to remain in the new Michigan Budget. This program presents an opportunity for us to pursue funding for feasibility studies and strategic planning initiatives.
- VII. Old Business:
 - a. Brownfield: Waiting on EGLE for the Spartan Tire property
 - b. Strategic Plan: Jennifer sent over notes on strategic plan, looking for comments/feedback
- VIII. Public Comment:
 - a. Kirk Olson: Farmland can be a strength and a weakness in the SWOT analysis
 - b. Dennis Whitney: Depot Days went well; decorating has started for Christmas. The new speakers are working great.
 - c. Chris Ming: School year is going well. The football game is on Friday night, it will be Military Night, and there will be a glow show.
 - d. Darren Kroczaleski: The soccer team won conference for the first time ever. The sports facilities are looking great; Steve is doing a great job.
- IX. Around the Table:
 - a. Pat Killingbeck: Walk & Roll to School event in Au Gres went well.
 - b. Harold Woolhiser: The kitchen at the event center has been a hurdle, waiting for approval from the Health Department before construction can begin. The Consumers Energy Grant went through.
 - c. Julie Hazeltine: Looking to get rid of archives in the Treasurer's Office. Treasurers talk and training coming up in a couple of weeks. Another foreclosure auction will be happening at the end of the month to sell the remaining boat slips.
 - d. Kim Nelson: More renovations are happening at the hospital. Dr. Shamieh is retiring at the end of next week.

- e. Dale Wiltse: New Dawn opened in Au Gres one townhome is still open for rent, getting ready to build another building. New developers are looking to put in twenty-five large storage units. Next weekend is Halloween in the park.
- f. Shelly DuCharme: The school aid budget passed. Spent the morning at Standish- Sterling schools for coffee and donuts to meet with the teachers and students. The ISD received a grant for screen awareness.
- g. Leona Daniels: The soybean market is low this year with China not buying from the US. This Saturday is Tractor Treat at Hartwick Land & Cattle from 12pm-4pm. Labor is a huge issue for farmers, especially specialty crops.
- h. Mike Stodolak: The mortgage rate is currently at 6.75%; rates are supposed to go down another quarter in December. Fraud is still happening.
- X. Next Meeting November 13th at 8:30am
- XI. Meeting Adjourned: 9:59am

Respectfully Submitted,

Abbie Golimbieski

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