

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

November 3, 2025 | 1 p.m.

Location: Board of Commissioners Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Term Expires	Present/Absent
Tom Stanek, Chair	2/13/2027	P
Rodney Dragicevich, Vice Chair	2/13/2026	P
Zachary Morris, Secretary	2/13/2030	A
Kurt Doroh, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Stephanie Timmer, Board Member	2/13/2028	P
Mike Toth, Board Member	2/13/2028	P

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, External Affairs Manager at Market One
- Katie Multhauf, Economic Development Manager at Market One
- Katie Vanderhulst, Community Development Director at Market One
- Lisa Ransler, Van Buren County Community Services Director
- Rebecca Faultersack, Economic Development Coordinator
- Jennifer Gilliam, Midwest Energy & Communications

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Kurt Doroh moved to approve the meeting agenda. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Open Issues

Palisades, Broadband

- a. Ryan Thyfault, Data Resource Manager with Kinexus Group, will attend the next meeting on December 1, 2025, to present an overview of the economic impacts related to Palisades Holtec.
- b. Jennifer Gilliam from Midwest Energy and Communications reported that ROBIN broadband project continues to progress well. The team remains on schedule to complete all ROBIN areas in the second quarter of 2026, with invoicing planned for the third quarter of 2026. The work is currently 85% complete. There are no new updates regarding BEAD.

Financial Update

a. Revolving Loan Fund

Tom Stanek shared that the letter to RNS has been approved by the attorney and will be sent out.

Katie Vanderhulst reported that Mitaine will be making two payments to become current on their account. Mr. Morris contacted Lucky Girl and was informed that they plan to pay off their loan by the end of the year.

Quarter 2 has been approved, and the County should have received \$20,000. Quarter 3 is currently in the process of being submitted.

b. County Strategic Fund

No major updates at this time.

Community Grant Development Update

Ms. Vanderhulst gave an update on grants. Regarding the MSHDA CDBG program, she noted that of the ten planned applicants, nine were successfully submitted to MSHDA and all have been approved. The projected community impact over the next 24 months is \$3,960,000. She also reported that Market One is hiring an internal Housing Development team to support local communities. Program advertising and homeowner applications are scheduled to begin in Spring 2026, with rehabilitation activities targeted to start in Summer 2026. The VBC Rural Housing Preservation Program is planned to launch concurrently with the MSHDA CDBG program.

In addition, the Village of Paw Paw intends to create murals throughout its downtown area, with a formal announcement expected in November 2025 through the Consumers Energy Prosperity Grant. The total project cost is \$100,000.

VF Capital Group continues to advance housing development efforts in Decatur and anticipates breaking ground in Spring 2026. This project will be carried out in partnership with the Village of Decatur, which will provide infrastructure support, and MEC, which will supply fiber and electric services.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Katie Multhauf provided an update on economic development activities in Van Buren County. She announced that DeGrandchamp Farms (Project Blueberry), has been awarded MDARD's Underserved Value-Added and Regional Food Systems Grant. Ms. Multhauf supported the project by assisting with the grant application and preparing a letter of support.

She also reported that BREA outreach efforts are ongoing, including informing businesses about the Going PRO Talent Fund, MDARD Rural Development Fund, and GAP financing through the Van Buren County Revolving Loan fund. She regularly briefs businesses on opportunities related to the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) and workforce talent resources.

Additional Announcements/Public Comment

No comments at this time.

Adjournment

Mr. Peat moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:15p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2025 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

12-22-2025

Date