

Arenac County EDC

Meeting Minutes



Location: Arenac County Building
Room 201

December 11th, 2025

- I. Call to Order: 8:30am
- II. Roll Call: Jennifer Pierson, Bob Balzer, Kim Nelson, Curt Hillman, Dale Wiltse, Pat Killingbeck, Harold Woolhiser, Julie Hazeltine, Deb Morgan, Brad Mason, Mike Stodolak
 - a. Guests: Chris Ming, Dennis Whitney
 - b. Absent: Leona Daniels, Shelly DuCharme, Amanda Lauzon
- III. Public Comment:
 - a. Dennis Whitney: The Christmas Parade on November 28th was very successful. Santa Train went well; the new speakers worked great for the event. Had a nice turnout for the Chamber after hours at Marigolds.
 - b. Chris Ming: Snow day yesterday due to the roads, still had the Christmas concert in the evening. Facing some challenges with approved funding.
- IV. Meeting Minutes/Secretary's Report:
 - a. Approval of the November Meeting Minutes: Motion-Curt Hillman, Approved-Deb Morgan
- V. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion- Brad Mason, Approved-Curt Hillman
 - b. Motion made by Mike Stodolak to ask for support from the county for \$7,500 for annual budget, Approved-Brad Mason
- VI. Director's Report (attached included in report):
 - a. Region 5 is working in collaboration with SVSU, will be sending two buses of students to a talent tour. There will be a hiring event at Dow the following day. There is a Wage Pilot Program for all childcare facilities in the region listed in MiRegistry. BRES funding is available for vehicle repairs/purchases. ATD signed their apprenticeship paperwork, hoping to get another childcare facility signed up at the beginning of the year. Things to consider on strategic plan- what should we be responsible for, committee liaisons, infrastructure and should we consider restructuring?
- VII. Old Business:
 - a. SSRP Grant: See email from Jennifer on completed Quest Site Maps
 - b. Golden Shovel: Reach out to schools, businesses and city office to help market
- VIII. Around the table:
 - a. Brad Mason- Spartan Tire property is through Landbank, not Brownfield. The water extension to the high school is almost done. Accepted a bid for the Spark Grant Drain Project. Requested to get the Standish Strong event back in downtown Standish and the wages for the lady that previously helped with the event and bookkeeping through the Chamber.
 - b. Curt Hillman- Standish and Sterling Fire Departments are still deciding if they will be joining together. They will start billing for their services, since they must start paying wages to the firemen. AOI lost 55-60% of their funding. DDA is making improvements at the Depot. The Polar Bear has been named Shivers.
 - c. Dale Wiltse- Getting compliments on the decorations through Au Gres. Christmas in the Chapel is on Sunday. The foundation for four more houses has been put in. The campground expansion is still moving along.
 - d. Deb Morgan: The new homes that are going in look nice. There should be a video of the county and its amenities on the County website to help with marketing.
 - e. Bob Balzer: Data Centers are going in, and consumers have plenty of power to run them.
 - f. Pat Killingbeck- Enjoying the holidays, happy Au Gres got their decorations up early this year.

Curt Hillman resigned from the board; the board thanked him and wished him well on his future endeavors.

- IX. Next Meeting January 8th, 2026 at 8:30am
- X. Meeting Adjourned: 10:24am

Respectfully Submitted,

Abbie Golimbieski

MSUE