



**Executive Committee Minutes**

November 19, 2024

Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 N. Washington Square, Lansing MI 48913  
or via Zoom

**Members Present:**

Beth Ardisana  
Rosalynn Bliss  
Awenate Cobbina  
Krista Flynn  
Sarah Gonzales  
Fadwa Hammoud  
Bobby Hopewell

Mike McLauchlan  
Bob McMahan  
Bill Pink  
Brian Rich  
Bob Sutherland  
Gina Jacquart Thorsen  
Carla Walker-Miller

**Members Absent:**

Tom Lutz  
LaJune Montgomery Tabron  
Sheldon Neeley

Santa Ono  
Renee Tomina

**Staff Present:**

Christin Armstrong  
Steve Bakkal  
Lavonne Blonde  
Aileen Bovan  
Christina DeGrow

Amiee Evans  
Lynne Feldpausch  
Quentin Messer  
Jen Nelson  
Jill Trepkoski

**I. Call to order**

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. He requested that Ms. Armstrong provide any necessary communications. There was one communication distributed to Executive Committee Members on November 18<sup>th</sup> via email. A roll call was performed to determine attendance. A quorum was present. The meeting was held at Michigan Economic Development Corporation, 300 N. Washington Square, Lansing MI 48913.

**II. Public Comment**

Mr. Cobbins invited public comment. Ms. Armstrong facilitated and public comment was had.

**III. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any questions, changes, or corrections to the September 25, 2024, minutes. There were none. *Brian Rich moved to approve the*



*minutes of the September 25, 2024, meeting and Bobby Hopewell supported the motion. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Cobbina reviewed the 2025 meeting dates and location that are included in your packet, adding that we are also taking suggestions for the retreat location. If you have recommendation, please let Awenate, Quentin and Amiee know, we like to utilize locations that showcase the work of the MEDC. Mr. Cobbina also provided subcommittee appointments for new members, Sarah Gonzalez, appointed to Audit & Governance, and Renee Tomina, appointed to Finance.

*Bobby Hopewell departs the meeting 10:46am.*

#### **IV. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cobbina requested Dr. Pink provide a Strategic Planning subcommittee update. Dr. Pink advised they had met to discuss end of year outcomes that were achieved and proposed target for FY25. Overall, the MEDC met many of the FY24 targets in the three pillars of People, Place and Projects and the FY25 proposed targets are appropriate and aligned with the budget that was approved at the September 25, 2025, meeting. Steve Bakkal provided detailed information on the Make It In Michigan Scorecard FY24 actual year end outcome and FY25 metrics and targets. After discussion, *Krista Flynn moved to approve the FY25 Strategic Planning Targets with the caveat the Dr. Pink and the Strategic Planning Subcommittee heard, and will pay increased attention to, the group's comments and Brian Rich supported the motion. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **V. Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cobbina requested Ms. Flynn provide an update on behalf of the Personnel & Compensation Subcommittee. Ms. Flynn indicated the subcommittee met recently to discuss options for MEDC corporate benefit renewal and delegation of plan and/or policy administration. As discussed at the September 25, 2025, meeting, the MEDC has experienced a significant increase in the health plan benefit rates. The committee has evaluated options and is bringing a recommendation forward for 2025 health benefit plan as well as previewing options for benefit year 2026 that introduces a large deductible model. The committee would like to delegate non-monetary benefit plan administration, as well as execution provisions of the corporation compensation policy, to the MEDC for execution. Lynne Feldpausch walked through the details of the subcommittee's recommendations.

*Beth Ardisana moved to approve the resolution adopting the corporate employee benefit rates for 2025 and Rosalynn Bliss supported the motion. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*



*Carla Walker-Miller moved to approve the resolution adopting the corporate employee benefit plan for 2025 and Gina Jacquart Thorsen supported the motion. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Dr. Pink moved to approve the resolution adopting delegation to the CEO for execution on pre-approved policy changes relative to compensation for corporation employees and Rosalynn Bliss supported the motion. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VI. Audit and Governance Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cobbina requested Ms. Thorsen, in Mr. Lutz absence, provide an update on behalf of the Audit and Governance Subcommittee. At their recent meeting they reviewed the subcommittee charter and may make some changes in 2025. Ms. Thorsen provided updates on the various ongoing audits.

**VII. CEO Report**

Mr. Messer thanked his colleagues and most importantly committee members for their continued service. Mr. Messer provided a brief overview of the 2025 Executive Committee education series and turned it over to Amiee Evans for a legislative update. Amiee provided the status of legislation as it relates to the MEDC's interests. Work will continue with our partners throughout the rest of the calendar year to ensure we have adoption of the full package that allows us to advance our economic development strategy.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.