



Antrim County

Economic Development Corporation

Mission Statement: Retain, expand, and promote County-wide economic growth and stability

MEMBERS

Sherry Comben
12/31/2026

Peter Garwood
12/31/2025

Cherie Hogan
12/31/2027

Rachel Krino
12/31/2027

Kathleen Peterson
12/31/2026

Tim Timmer
12/31/2028

Terry VanAlstine
Annual Appointment

Christy Wilson
12/31/2028

Vacancy

STAFF

Jeremy Scott
County Administrator

Janet Koch
Deputy Administrator

Gayle Rider
Administrative Asst.

Margie Boyd
Secretary

OFFICE ADDRESS

P.O. Box 187
Bellaire, MI 49615

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SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you wish to attend a meeting and require special assistance, please contact the Administration Office.

The Antrim County Economic Development Corporation organizational meeting is for

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Antrim County Building

Board of Commissioners Room

203 East Cayuga Street, Bellaire, Michigan

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes – [January 21, 2025](#)
4. Annual Review of [Strategic Plan](#)
5. Preparation of 2024 Annual Report
6. Public Comment
7. Adjourn

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Administration and Planning Office at 231-533-6265.
We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Thank you.*



Antrim County
Administration Office
Memorandum

February 18, 2025

TO: Antrim County Economic Development Corporation

FR: Administration Office

RE: Approval of Minutes (09/17/2024)

You received the [minutes from the January 21, 2025](#) Economic Development Corporation meeting electronically on January 27, 2025 and again on March 13, 2025 as part of your agenda packet. If there are no corrections to those minutes, please consider the following motion:

Approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting as presented.

Strategic Plan 2024



Antrim County
Economic Development Corp.

	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Description</i>
Business & Economic Development	1) Business attraction & economic development	Understand Antrim County’s business climate status and needs for future growth.
	2) Broadband	Support ongoing efforts to expand broadband development.
	3) Property redevelopment	Promote, reuse, and redevelop brownfield sites.
	4) Talent attraction and workforce development	Understand Antrim County’s talent and workforce status and needs for future growth.
	5) Infrastructure	Understand Antrim County’s infrastructure (water, sewer, utilities, roads, etc.) and future growth needs.
Community & Human Services	1) Affordable housing	Promote & advocate housing initiatives by providing access to resources & education supporting Antrim County’s housing needs.
	2) General needs of growing population /health facilities	Understand Antrim County’s needs of the growing population and status of health facilities.
	3) Childcare	Understand Antrim County’s childcare status and needs.
Environmental	1) Preserve and protect natural resources	Continue to recognize Antrim County’s valuable natural resources by supporting and promoting area parks, trails, rivers, lakes, etc., encouraging responsible usage and direct intentional economic development growth areas.
Organizational	1) Communication	Effectively communicate with Board of Commissioners, county staff, partners, public, etc. on goals, objectives & areas of opportunity.
	2) Resource Access	Promote materials, opportunities, resources gained by providing links, email blasts, social media posts, local governmental meetings, etc.
	3) EDC Evaluation	After establishing goals and objectives for the EDC, develop a process and timeline for evaluating progress.
	4) Collaboration	Encourage involvement from County leadership, program partners, business & community leaders to work through hurdles or roadblocks preventing successful economic development.

1) Business Attraction & Economic Development

High priority / Monthly; adjust as needed

Business Owner Meeting Program – 1. Invite Antrim County business owners to present to the EDC about their business history, needs, etc. 2. Develop a list of questions to conduct in business check-ins.

Business Connector Series – Conduct webinars that connect area small businesses and community resources.

EDC Education – Work with NLEA and area chambers to understand Antrim County's business makeup, challenges, growth opportunities, potential to diversify the County's economy, etc.

Resource Access – Provide links to business & economic development agencies on EDC or County website.

2) Broadband

Medium priority / Bi-annual review; adjust as needed

EDC Participation – Engage regularly with broadband partners to remain current on the status of broadband development and needs.

Broadband Support – Work with broadband partners to provide support on funding opportunities, grant requests, and other action items brought to the EDC by broadband partners (if meets County objectives).

3) Property Redevelopment

Medium priority / Annual project

Site Identification – Partner with industry expert organizations, local units of government & consultants to identify and inventory potential sites for redevelopment. Prioritize which sites are best situated for redevelopment and work with partners to determine ownership interest, funding opportunities, and next steps for redevelopment.

Acting Developer – Purchase an identified eligible property for redevelopment.

Public Education – Work with industry experts to conduct a public presentation to local units of governments, realtors, developers, and interested parties to learn about brownfield tools and how they can benefit properties in their communities.

4) Talent Attraction & Workforce Development

Medium priority / Ongoing

Partner Promotion – Work w/ industry expert organizations (Michigan Works, colleges) to promote area programs that provide growth for area businesses.

Resource Access – Provide links to workforce development agencies on EDC website.

5) Infrastructure

Low priority / Bi-annually

EDC Education – Presentation from County departments and utility partners on what has been done, being done, and needs to be done.

Infrastructure Mapping – Take inventory and map municipally owned infrastructure.

1) Affordable Housing

High priority / Monthly; adjust as needed

EDC Education – Presentations from partner agencies on various housing topics.

Resource Access – Provide links to housing partner agencies on EDC or County website.

2) General Needs of Growing Population/Health Facilities

Medium priority / Bi-annual review

EDC Education – Presentations from health care industry experts to gain an understanding of what is available to Antrim County residents of all ages and income, what is needed or missing, and plans to address the growing needs for the future.

3) Childcare

Medium priority / Bi-annually

EDC Education – Presentations from childcare industry experts (United Way, Great Start Collaborative, etc.) to gain an understanding of what is available to Antrim County residents, program opportunities, what is needed for the county, and plans to address the growing needs for the future.

Resource Access – Provide links to childcare partner agencies on EDC or County website.

1) Preserve & Protect Natural Resources

High priority / Monthly; adjust as needed

Work with EGLE and other environmental experts to update the public on the status of environmental and mitigation activities, e.g., promote access to plume materials available at the County building.

Resource Access – Provide links to DNR, local conservation groups, trail systems, etc. on EDC or County website.

1) Communication

High priority / Ongoing

The EDC Chair will attend County Board of Commissioner meetings twice a year to report on economic development in the county along with EDC Board activities. Additional EDC members are encouraged to attend the presentations.

Develop an elevator speech to be used by members while in the community and establish guidelines regarding representation of the EDC at outside community meetings.

Create an inventory matrix of EDC members and their memberships with other organizations. Provide opportunity during regular EDC meetings for related updates in a Roundtable agenda item

Publish newsletters/bulletins on a regular basis. Alternatively, announce presentations to the EDC in the County-wide *Bulletin*.

Develop a comprehensive contact list for information distribution.

Request the townships, villages and chambers include an EDC link on their websites.

2) Resource Access

High priority / Ongoing

Identify resources & information key to economic development. Create a system for EDC members to monitor & report on the specific resource.

Review the EDC section of the county's website regarding missing links and information about resource and submit to the Administration Office.

Establish a Facebook page to share important local, regional & statewide opportunities & updates regarding economic development opportunities.

Develop a most frequently asked questions/answers.

3) EDC Evaluation

High priority / Ongoing

Establish a timeline for each EDC goal based on low, medium, and high priority.

Review strategic plan annually.

After a number of actionable items have been completed, conduct a survey of area businesses, service organizations and governmental bodies, ask questions regarding EDC.

Establish a metric evaluation on actionable items.

4) Collaboration

High priority / Ongoing

Continue to work with businesses to understand the needs of each industry.

Continue to work with area chambers.

Continue to work w/[NLEA](#), [SBDC](#), [SCORE](#), [Networks Northwest](#), [MEDC](#), [MDARD](#), [Venture North](#), [Housing North](#) & others.