



Economic Development Group of Wabash County



Dedicated to creating economic and employment opportunities for the people and businesses of Wabash County.

Lt. Governor Skillman Awards Wabash Thousands in a Downtown Enhancement Grant.

December 5th was a big day for Downtown Wabash. Wabash Marketplace, Inc., in association with the Economic Development Group and the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce, visited Lt. Governor Skillman at the State House to accept a \$20,000.00 Downtown Enhancement Grant.

The Downtown Enhancement Grants are administered by the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). These grants fund projects that support and promote community-based planning, marketing, and restoration efforts for Indiana Main Street communities.

Wabash Marketplace, Inc. in partnership with the EDG and Chamber of Commerce plan to use the grant to establish a revolving fund to provide access to working capital for new and existing downtown businesses. Some of the goals that Marketplace hope to attain are to increase the number of new businesses and jobs in the downtown area and achieve a higher occupancy rate in downtown buildings.

This isn't the first grant OCRA has awarded to Wabash County. EDG is currently working with the \$100,000 Rural Capacity Grant and the \$330,000 RECAP grant with the Chamber, Wabash Marketplace, Convention Visitors Bureau and SBD. This project is also supported by the Honeywell Foundation and Charley Creek Foundation.



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Actions of the Board

Economic Development Group's monthly board meeting was held on December 11, 2007 at 7:30 am in the EDG boardroom. The board reviewed minutes from the November board meeting and 3rd Quarter Finance Committee Meeting, financial reports, president's report and entertained a New Business Item.

One new business item was heard by the board, approval of the 2008 operating budget. The 2008 budget was reviewed and discussed. No changes were made to the budget and the board approved it unanimously.

A 2008 calendar of events was handed out which included all 2008 meetings and holidays observed by the EDG. The 2008 Membership numbers were also addressed. To date we have had a relatively good response to our renewal/new membership mailing. It was decided that in January EDG will send out another reminder letter to people who haven't sent in their membership dues.

EDG Board of Directors

Jeffery R. Kellam, Chair

Ralph Naragon, V. Chair

Ken Perkins, Treasurer

Robert Vanlandingham

Skip Daughtry

Dan Hannaford

Rob Pearson

Bill Reed

Lester Templin

President's Report December 2007



William S. Konyha
President

These items were reported on by the President:

- **GDX Automotive**– The President, along with the Mayor, City Attorney and two lawyers from Barnes and Thornburg of Indianapolis, met to discuss some strategies involving the shut down of GDX and it's effect on Wabash County. The city's claw back provision on CREDIT money requires GDX to repay the money that they had received thus far, with interest to the City. The President spoke with Wes Thompson, Vice President of Business Development for GDX who agreed to keep the EDG and the City informed. GDX would like the EDG to assist with the efforts to market the facility.
- **Wabash Agriproducts**– WAP expects to complete and execute the inter-creditor agreement by the end of December and to formally advise EDG of their intent to close on real estate. This formal notification will initiate the closing processes as set forth within the options.
- The President had telephone conversations several times during the past month with a consultant for an existing industry that is contemplating expansion. EDG is working to support expansion in Wabash instead North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio that are the other choices. We discussed incentives that we can offer to facilitate expansion into in Wabash County including our willingness to consider TIF or Tax Abatements and training grants for incumbent workers, among other things.
- The President is developing a work plan for the company in 2008. The plan will be completed for discussion at the January meeting of the Board of Directors.
- The President spoke at the Purdue Extension meeting on November 19 and also spoke at the North Manchester Main Street organization on December 9.
- The President also participated in two RECAP meetings with program partners.



*Wishing A Happy and
Healthy Holiday
Season to Our Board
and Members.*

William S. Konyha

Ally C. Hoy



2008 Brings Increased Membership Goals to EDG Organization!

EDG is increasing it's membership goals in 2008. Our goal is to increase membership by approximately 10% in 2008. The 2006 switch to making our organization membership based instead of donation based has proven to be an excellent way to get community leaders involved in the economic development of Wabash County.

EDG is a quickly growing organization that has accomplished much in it's first full year of operation. We appreciate our members and will continue our progress with their support and guidance. Please contact us with any suggestions of how we might improve our organization, services or increase our membership. 2008 looks to be an exciting year for EDG and we would like to share it with as many members of the community as possible!

**We are always happy to hear from our members! Questions or concerns?
Please contact us at 260-563-5258 or by email at info@edgwc.com**