

March 12, 2026

**Re: Support for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

To Whom It May Concern:

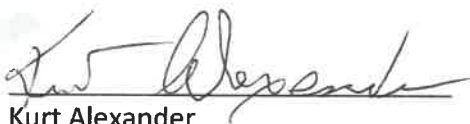
The Allen Economic Development Group Board (AEDG) formally expresses its support for the recently completed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the 5-County region of Allen, Hardin, Hancock, Putnam, and Van Wert counties. At a recent AEDG board meeting, the group motioned to approve the acceptance of the prepared CEDS report.

The CEDS was developed through regional input and analysis of current economic conditions, challenges, and opportunities. The document provides a framework to guide economic development efforts, prioritize projects, and align public and private investments across the region.

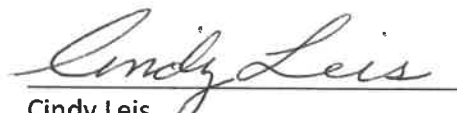
The goals and strategies outlined in the CEDS align with AEDG's mission and support coordinated efforts across business growth, workforce development, infrastructure, and economic resilience.

The Allen Economic Development Group Board supports the adoption and use of the CEDS and recognizes it as a guiding document for regional economic development planning and implementation.

Sincerely,



Kurt Alexander  
AEDG Board Chairman



Cindy Leis  
AEDG President/CEO

**AEDG Board Members:**

Kurt Alexander  
Lynn Carpenter  
Tammy Gladwell  
John Heaphy  
Chad King

Stephanie Malloy  
Dan Schmiedebusch  
Beth Seibert  
Sharetta Smith  
Cynthia Spiers

Brent Stechschulte  
Becky Taylor  
Josh Unterbrink  
Howard Violet

## RESOLUTION

of the

### Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development Advisory Board

#### *A Resolution approving the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative*

At a duly noticed meeting of the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development Advisory Board ("Board"), at which a quorum was present, the Board took the following actions:

WHEREAS, the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative is comprised of Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, and Van Wert counties; and

WHEREAS, the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative desires to establish a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to provide a shared roadmap that supports long-term economic growth in the region; and

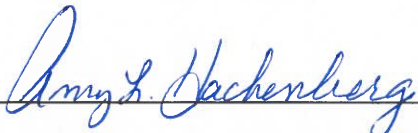
WHEREAS, the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was developed under regulations found in 13 C.F.R. § 303.7 of the Code of Federal Regulations which outlines the requirements of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative followed U.S. Economic Development Administration regulations to prepare a 2025 CEDS that is well-positioned to inform regional economic development decisions in Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, and Van Wert counties through 2030 and has been available for a 30-day public review comment period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Findlay Hancock County Economic Development, a member of the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative, approves the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and its submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christine Keller and/or Matthew Gilroy each have the authority, and independent of one other, to carry out the actions set forth in this Resolution on behalf of Findlay Hancock County Economic Development.

Resolved on 5th day of March, 2026. Findlay Hancock County Economic Development Advisory Board.

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Amy Hackenberg,  
Its: Board Chair

# Resolution: Approval of the Five County CEDS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HARDIN COUNTY CHAMBER AND BUSINESS ALLIANCE APPROVING THE FIVE COUNTY NORTHWEST OHIO COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS).**

**WHEREAS**, the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance ("The Alliance") serves as the lead agency for economic and community development within Hardin County; and

**WHEREAS**, The Alliance has partnered with Hancock, Allen, Putnam, and Van Wert counties to form the **Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative** to address regional economic challenges and opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has been developed through a collaborative process involving regional stakeholders, local governments, and professional consultancy to guide economic growth and foster prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, the CEDS is a prerequisite for designating the region as an Economic Development District (EDD) and is required to maintain eligibility for various grants and assistance programs from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA); and

**WHEREAS**, the draft CEDS document has undergone a formal public review period to ensure community input and transparency;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HARDIN COUNTY CHAMBER AND BUSINESS ALLIANCE:**

1. **Approval:** The Board of Directors hereby formally approves the Five County Northwest Ohio Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as presented.
2. **Authorization:** The President and CEO is hereby authorized to submit this resolution and the finalized CEDS document to the Economic Development Administration and to take all necessary actions to implement the strategy therein.
3. **Effective Date:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this 13th day of March, 2026.

**Certified by:**



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*Tracy Temple, Board Chair*



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*Holli Underwood, President & CEO*

## RESOLUTION 2026-01

### *A Resolution approving the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative*

WHEREAS, the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative is comprised of Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, and Van Wert counties, and;

WHEREAS, the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative desires to establish a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to provide a shared roadmap that supports long-term economic growth in the region, and;

WHEREAS, the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was developed under regulations found in 13 C.F.R. § 303.7 of the Code of Federal Regulations which outlines the requirements of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and;

WHEREAS, the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborated followed U.S. Economic Development Administration regulations to prepare a 2025 CEDS that is well-positioned to inform regional economic development decisions in Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, and Van Wert counties through 2030 and has been available for a 30-day public review comment period;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Community Improvement Corporation, a member of the Five County Northwest Ohio Collaborative, approves this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and its submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Resolved on 18 day of March, 2026



Jeff Vance, Chairman of the Board  
Putnam County Community Improvement Corporation

3-18-26

Date

Putnam County CIC Board of Trustees

Ken Wright

Don Kelly

Dog May

Ken Lammor

Richard Schutte

Joseph A. Henderson

Ken McCallman Jr

McCall

# VWAEDC Minutes – March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

**Absent:** George Scott, Thad Lichtensteiger

**Present:** Randy Agler, Bill Evans, Bill Marshall, Stacey Baer, Sara Zura, Sue Gerker, Ken Markward

## President Opens Meeting

**Action:** Minutes of meeting for 2/23/2026

Motion was made to approve February minutes by Bill Evans. Second motion was made by Ken Markward.

## MTD & YTD Financial Reports



Motion was made to approve February financials by Stacey Baer. Second motion was made by Bill Evans.

## Executive Director's Report

### Economic Indicators

- Van Wert Unemployment 3.6%
- Ohio Unemployment 3.9%
- National Unemployment 4.4%
- City income tax for Feb was 431,939 down \$35,443.69 for the month. Down 4.49% for the year.

**Christina Martin**

**Program Manager**



[REDACTED]

Lauren Buchanan

Work Force Development

[REDACTED]

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**Kim Fleming**

## Visit Van Wert

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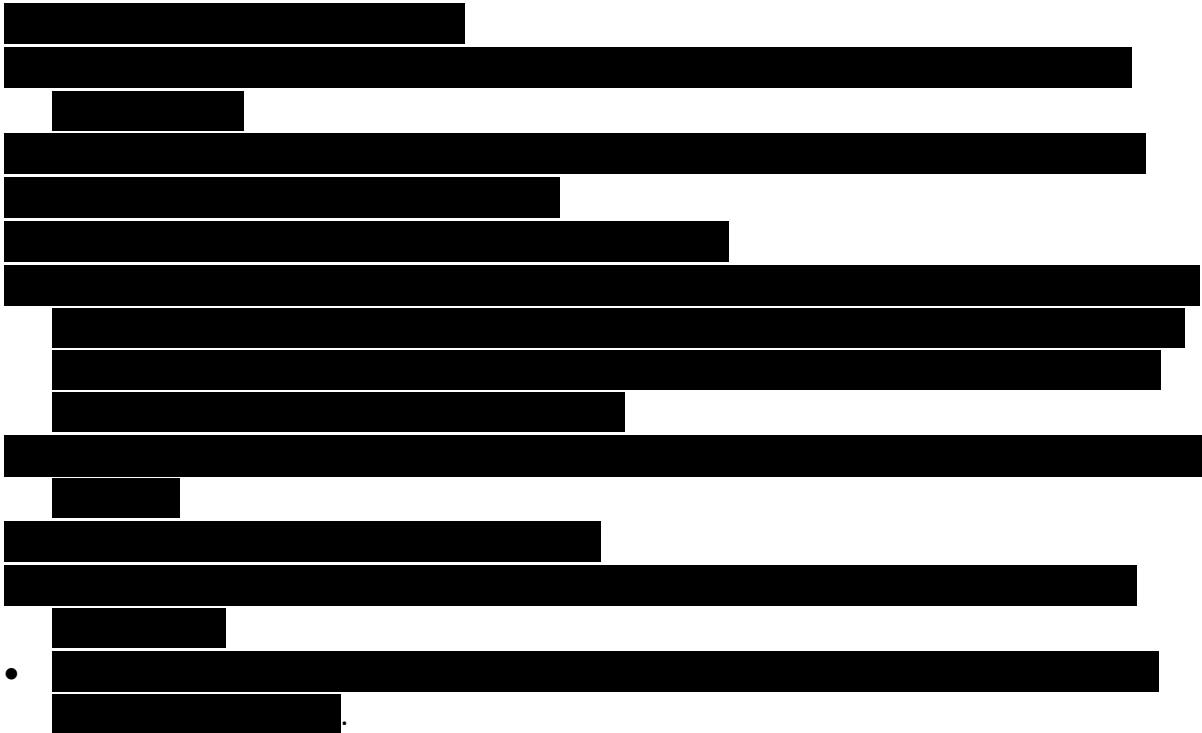
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New Prospects 2026



Old Business



New Business



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **CEDS plan** adopt and vote on accepting the final draft. Motion was made to approve CEDS plan as is by Randy Agler. Second motion was made Sara Zura.

[REDACTED]

**Outreach**

[REDACTED]

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Stacey Baer. Second motion was made by Sara Zura.