

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – January/February 2009 Activity Report

- Members of the Enterprise Facilitation and Economic Development Corporation Boards met to discuss the tremendous benefits each of their programs – the groups are preparing strategy to explain to the public and local officials the difference, but complementary nature of each program – the importance, need and financial support required for both programs to rebuild the distressed local economy will be emphasized
- The county is the beneficiary of a Coastal Zone Management grant that will enable planning of methods to strengthen the economy and environment along the Saginaw Bay shoreline in Tuscola County – additional information can be obtained by contacting Anamika Laad at the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region 989-797-0800
- The County Economic Development Corporation is partnering with MSU-Extension and others to review recommendations contained in the Community Assessment Team Report (CAT) to prioritize proposals for implementation = copies of the report can be reviewed at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cdnr/tuscolacatreport.pdf>
- The Board of Commissioners recently passed a resolution in strong opposition to the Governor's proposed 2009/2010 major budget cuts to MSU-Extension
- Recently, the County Board approved a five-year update to the Arbela-Millington Parks and Recreation Plan – keeping this plan updated allows the local parks commission to apply for grants to make park improvements
- Recently, county officials attended a conference of Dispatch Directors from throughout the state – the topic of discussion was consolidation of dispatching operations – the importance of proper planning and including all stakeholders as partany consolidation process was stressed – several counties have completed consolidations which usually are implemented in stages over several years – Tuscola and Huron Counties are considering purchasing equipment to enable one dispatch center to serve as a backup to the other
- Contracts to improve pager coverage in the northern portion of the county have been signed and solutions to pager coverage issues in the Reese area are being reviewed
- County officials have begun the process to hire a Mosquito Abatement Director – a Director needs to be hired soon to begin the important oversight of the 2009 season

- The County Board recently formed a Financial Planning Task Force to begin developing recommendations to balance the 2010, 2011 and future year budgets – Tuscola County, as with counties throughout the state, is experiencing great financial pressures because of the tremendous economic downturn which is negatively impacting the revenue base and the ability of the county to maintain service levels
- Recently, the Health Department 2007/2008 audit was presented to the County Board – showing that the Health Department is effectively managing their finances – in order to fulfill their fiduciary responsibility, the County Board is asking county operations with separate audits to make presentations
- The County Planning Commission is working with the State Aeronautics Commission to prepare an Airport Zoning Ordinance to preserve safety for a 10 mile area around the airport

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