

**Matt McCauley, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Staff Report, June-August 2015**

Michigan Defense Center- As one of just two northern Michigan representatives, I began serving on the Michigan Defense Center's (MDC) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) "Protect & Grow Advisory Committee," beginning a state-wide effort to inventory, analyze, understand and share the state's multi-billion dollar industry and the more than 50,000 jobs it supports. This initiative will also study opportunities and develop a plan for future growth for the state.

State of Michigan Community Development Programming- I was selected to facilitate a leadership discussion between the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The purpose of the discussions are to better coordinate and market the state's community development programming.

Collaborative Development Council (CDC)- I continue to represent Region 2 on the MEDC's statewide CDC Board. The Board engages in a variety of activities including providing a local perspective to the MEDC's programming to better create business growth, retention, and attraction.

Health Care- I've been working closely with Northern Michigan Health Coalition to expand its geography and membership to better align with the objectives of Michigan Department of Community Health, including coordination of care, lower costs and improved health outcomes among the regions.

TC-TALUS- I continue to work with the TALUS Board on reorganization to better assist the Traverse City urbanized area with coordinated transportation planning. TC-TALUS is moving from a twenty-four person board to an eight person board more focused on its transportation stakeholders. It is anticipated that the Traverse City urbanized area will reach the population threshold required for Metropolitan Planning Organization designation in 2020.

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)- As the only Michigan representative, I serve on the NADO Board. The Board provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's regional development organizations.

General- I have been spending considerable time representing Networks Northwest's interests in Lansing with associations, state departments, and elected officials. Currently I am disseminating information and reports associated with Region 2's Regional Prosperity Initiative, and advocating for approaches and resources that will help our region's communities implement various locally-designed economic projects.