

Tri-County Regional Economic Development Corporation

Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties

◆ Economic Development ◆

Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara County have similar economic and demographic characteristics, issues, and volunteer county economic development corporations (EDCs). Beginning in 2002 with the assistance of UW-Extension, the three county EDCs began meeting with one another to discuss the possibility of working together. By 2004, they decided to work together as a region and with the assistance of UW-Extension outlined a proposal to form a regional economic development corporation. In 2005, the Tri-County Regional Economic Development Corporation (TCREDC) incorporated and hired an executive director in October to serve the three county region.

The TCREDC's formation involved the county EDCs and the county UW-Extension offices in Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties with funding from County Boards, a DOC grant, and local businesses. The TCREDC executive director, hired in September of 2005, has worked on over 50 business and community development projects. His coaching, consulting, and acting as a go-between has enabled local businesses to remain in operation, expand, and relocate within the region. The area is now viewed by others as one region. Various groups and organizations have been pulled together to participate in projects and programs to help local businesses prosper.

The TCREDC is a partnership between the Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara County EDCs. The TCREDC consists of representatives from the EDCs and is fully supported by the three county EDCs who have agreed that the best approach to improve local economic conditions is to work together as one region. The three county UW-Extension offices have worked together to assist the TCREDC in their formation. The three county boards have are contributing equally to the funding of the TCREDC. The TCREDC has established collaborative relationships with all of the economic development organizations in the three counties and broader regional entities.

TCREDC will work in cooperation with public and private entities to promote the region and assist businesses in order to attract, stimulate and revitalize commerce, industry, and manufacturing in the region resulting in the retention and creation of viable living wage jobs. TCREDC will provide the opportunity for timely response to questions and requests for business development information and to anticipate and react to situations or issues that could result in a loss of business and employment in the community. TCREDC will enhance



the economic conditions in the community through business retention and expansion resulting in job security and creation.

The process used by the Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara County EDCs, who had rarely spoke to one another, to form the TCREDC is well documented. With the assistance of the three county UW-Extension offices, the county EDCs found a common ground, explored the various ways they could work together, developed an outline of how to work together, and formed the TCREDC. The TCREDC is a model of how an organization can operate if it has a truly regional view of economic development.

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