



December 14, 2011

Report on Activities from SCOR Economic Development Corporation

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the SCOR EDC, I am pleased to provide you with an update on our most recent activities and successes.

SCOR is currently working on a number of projects.

1. Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC) is helping us with a manufacturing capabilities index project. This project will help manufacturing organizations (large and small) within the region to identify their current capability and what they may be able to do in terms of new products and new markets.
The second part of this project is to help match manufactures with a specific set of capabilities with those in need of those services and areas of expertise.
2. We have put forth a project proposal with the five SCOR region Community Futures Development Corporations to FedDev for a project fund. This will be based on an administration model similar to Sand Plains.
3. We are working with the Erie Innovation and Commercialization Centre, the Value Chain Management Centre (which is affiliated with the George Morris Centre) and a major retailer to bring local product to more supermarkets. This project will begin primarily focusing on berry growers in the region (premium quality strawberries and blueberries) and will expand to a range of other products.
4. A parallel project with the same group will focus on bringing increased quantities of specific, high quality, locally grown Asian vegetables to market. (list includes: garlic, Napa cabbage, long beans, bok choy)
5. We have submitted an application for funding to the Communities in Transition fund to update our SCOR's strategic plan and integrate our plans with those of our county partners. The updated strategy will help steer SCOR in the direction where we can make more efficient impacts on the region's economy. We are awaiting confirmation of these funds.
6. We have applied to the Community Development Program for funding to increase our marketing and communications and further engage our partners on a more consistent and deeper level.

Various tourism sector development projects are also underway across the region including equine sector development and culinary tourism. We are working with our partners on each of these.

SCOR office staff continues to build relationships and are being sought out by organizations, businesses and individuals within the five counties for assistance and support on a number of activities and projects. We have been asked to support and provide input on a number of other regional projects such as:

1. Arts Country (Studio Tour Marketing Group)
2. OFVGA Broader Public Sector business plan model
3. ICE incubation network throughout the SCOR region
4. Local Workforce Board projects
5. Rural Transportation Initiatives
6. Rural Oxford Economic Development (ROED)
7. EDCO-RRP
8. Biomass and Energy from Waste projects

SCOR has updated its main website and continues to maintain and improve the SCOR Business Portal. www.scorregion.com and www.scorbusinessportal.com.

SCOR has developed a framework for working with Erie Innovation and Commercialization and Community Futures Development Corporations in the region.

We continue to develop relationships and seek opportunities to work together with the Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation, Southwest Economic Alliance (SWEA), and Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC).

We are also developing relationships with post-secondary institutions in and around the region to work with us on various youth and training projects. These provide valuable experience for students as well as provide us with low cost resources. We expect to familiarize students with the SCOR region and the opportunities available here. We want young people to complete their education and return to the area to establish themselves in new careers and new businesses.

SCOR takes this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and commitment. Our mutual cooperation and dedication is vital in achieving our goals of economic diversity and growth in the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if you wish to have a detailed presentation made to your Council.

Yours truly,

Dennis Travale, Chair
Board of Directors
South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation

c.c.
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