

Economic group hires new executive director



Lisa McComb

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GAYLORD — Lisa McComb, recently joined the Otsego County Economic Alliance as its new executive director.

"I'm really looking forward to starting and being in this position," said McComb, a Petoskey resident. McComb, who joined the Gaylord-based economic development organization in late March, previously spent about five years as executive director for Northern Shores Loan Fund Inc. in Harbor Springs. Northern Shores, a nonprofit community development financial institution incorporated under the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, has focused on providing small businesses in Northern Michigan with opportunities such as loan funding, training and education.

McComb continues to serve as a consultant on community development matters. Her work background also includes a stint as an assistant vice president of business banking for JP Morgan Chase, a position in which she managed portfolios for local businesses throughout Northern Michigan with assets of \$2 million or less. At the Otsego County Economic Alliance, McComb replaces Jeff Ratcliffe, who left to take an executive director position at the Houghton-based Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance.

The Otsego County Economic Alliance, which has existed for about 13 years, is a nonprofit organization. Its volunteer board of directors includes 19 members who come from fields including manufacturing, banking, finance, local government, higher education, chamber of commerce, retail, real estate, energy and community service.

"Our mission is to assist in economic growth in Otsego County with both public and private partnerships that maintain economic vitality," McComb said.

Regan Quaal, board chairman with the economic alliance, said McComb's work background gives her experience that will be relevant in her new position, including management and helping work out business arrangements.

"She's got a real positive energy," Quaal said. "I think that's so important. With that she's got a personality where she's just very likeable and very energetic and at the same time digs in and takes care of business."

McComb earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Michigan State University. Her 18-year-old daughter, Savannah, is on track to graduate from Petoskey High School this year.