

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on July 2, 2010 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: County Board members Bob Egan, Ralph Sitzberger, Emil Bakka, Jim Behling, and Ed Bluthardt.
Others: Kelly Haverkamp, UW-Extension
Media present: Ken Anderson
The following County Board members were excused:
The following County Board members were absent:

Agenda item # 2: Introductions – Introductions were not necessary this month.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Bakka, second by Behling to approve the agenda to be handled in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2010 by Bluthardt, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Agenda item #5: Economic Development Reports and Updates

a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation

- Egan reported that Dick Leinenkugel has accepted a six-month contract to serve as interim executive director for the VCEDC. His contract will go before the VCEDC board at its July 15 meeting. Leinenkugel's charge will be to assist the Corporation with its strategic plan, and to help recruit a permanent executive director.
- The next VCEDC Board meeting will be at the Chanticleer Inn in Eagle River on July 15, from 8 am to Noon. Following the meeting, a roundtable discussion will be hosted by the VCEDC Board, funded by VCEDC Chair Burrill, with area organizations that have supportive relationships to the VCEDC, such as the regional planning commission, educational institutions, workforce development board, Rotary Club, and others.
- Egan and Bakka reported having scouted an office location for the Corporation and will bring the suggestion to the Corporation Board Meeting.
- Egan reported that Steve Burrill plans to attend the August County Board meeting to provide an update on VCEDC. Members suggested that Leinenkugel be asked to attend future committee meetings.
- Behling asked what the committee can do to help the VCEDC and the County move forward. Bluthardt requested a future agenda item be added for someone to provide an overview of financial tools available to the County for assisting with economic development. Suggestions were made for the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and/or Local Government Center to provide an overview.

b) Grow North – Egan reported that Grow North is moving forward on a few grant applications related to rail service development and broadband.

c) Other Economic Development Activities

- Egan met with Jack Sroka (Lincoln County EDC) who is on the Regional Planning Commission Board, who provided him with a Revolving Loan Fund manual and materials for implementing other economic development tools; Egan will share the tools with Corporation Counsel Milanowski.
- Members reported the County Board resolution to support funding the SonicNet broadband project was sent to the Finance Committee for development of a lending policy since the County has not done this type of lending before.
- Sitzberger reported a discussion with Senator Feingold's staff indicating the need for his support of Vilas County's broadband needs. Behling also attended a Feingold listening session and followed up with a note indicating Vilas County's need for his support of the County's development needs.

- Egan reported that funding for the pellet plant project is almost completed. He will accompany the owner to the next North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (Regional Revolving Loan Fund) meeting to support his application.
- Members reported that NCW Regional Planning Commission is creating a multi-use trail plan for the county, which is needed for access to DOT trail development funds. Behling noted a potential cutback of federal funds for the safe bike trail program.
- Egan reported the progress of the soccer fields and that roofing of the pavilion is underway.
- Egan and Sitzberger brought the idea of developing a County park at the Land O' Lakes site recently acquired by the County. Sitzberger has made a formal request for the Forestry Committee to add this item to their agenda. (copy of letter on file at the UWEX office). Discussion followed of a potential campground, RV park, or other uses that might produce revenue for the County. Behling suggested research on other such county parks, specifically Castle Rock Park in Juneau County, to explore the possibilities.

Agenda item # 6: Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills – Haverkamp presented the budget report. There were no vouchers. **Motion by Bluthardt, second by Bakka to approve the budget report. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 7: Out-of-County Travel –

- Haverkamp distributed the 2010 Wisconsin Economic Summit Series information, noting a change in the date of the first event from June 29 to August 2, and asked for permission to attend the event in Appleton. **Motion by Bluthardt, second by Sitzberger, for Haverkamp to attend the summit. Motion carried, all voting aye.**
- Egan requested permission to travel to Wausau for the pellet plant meeting with NCWDC; and to Madison for a meeting with the Department of Commerce. **Motion by Bakka, second by Sitzberger to approve Egan's request. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda Item # 8: Correspondence and Communications – None.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Haverkamp will not attend due to the Economic Development Summit in Appleton.

Adjournment: Motion by Behling, second by Sitzberger to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Submitted by: Kelly Haverkamp