

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on January 3, 2011 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

**Present:** The following persons were present: County Board members Bob Egan, Ralph Sitzberger, Emil Bakka, Jim Behling, & Ed Bluthardt; others Ken Stubbe, VCEDC Economic Executive Director; Roger Weber, Chances 'R; & Rosemary Leveille  
Media present: Jon Helgerson  
The following County Board members were excused:  
The following County Board members were absent:

**Introductions –**

Everyone introduced themselves

**Approve Agenda: Motion by Behling, second by Sitzberger 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 December 6, 2010 by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Economic Development Reports and Updates –**

a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Egan gave each member a copy of the VCEDC 2010 annual report (on file in the UWEX office). The report was furnished by the Burrill Corporation in its entirety. Stubbe stated that the December 29, 2010 gathering of potential “Angel” investors went very well. There were 20 in attendance with a great deal of interest in the Northwoods Angels. All that attended were given a membership agreement and a brochure on how an “Angel” network is operated. VCEDC is working with the Eagle River Pellet Co. in getting all of the necessary funding. If the funding comes through they will be opening soon after all paperwork in final. A broadband task force committee has been formed within VCEDC with a goal of providing Vilas County the same broadband access as anywhere else in the country at the same cost. Weber stated that he thinks that the towns may have to map their own towns to get correct and accurate information, since Link America has not done their job in the Northwoods. Their next meeting is on January 6<sup>th</sup> at Cornerstone Builders in Eagle River. An economic development grant is being pursued by VCEDC from USDA Rural Community Development in conjunction with NiiJii. Egan stated at the last VCEDC meeting there was a presentation by two teachers from Northland Pines High School, Scott Foster and Lance Schultz, on the Gateway Academy Camp for Engineering. They explained the current success of the program and also the need for funding; the presentation resulted in the program receiving 2 sponsors.

b) Grow North – Stubbe announced that the VCEDC will be linking to the Grow North website. Egan mentioned that Grow North received a \$30,000 grant for manufacturing development, mainly for research.

c) Other Economic Development Activities – None for this month

**Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –**

The budget update (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the members for their perusal. The following vouchers were presented for approval: 2010 – WEDA-\$225.00, and 2011 – Vilas County Economic Development Corporation-\$100,000.00. **Motion by Sitzberger, second by Bluthardt to approve the voucher presented.**

**Motion carried, all voting aye.** Bluthardt noted that the \$100,000.00 is the County’s seed money to VCEDC. It was also noted that the board members of VCEDC have given individual donations totaling \$45,000 over the next 3 years.

**Out-of-County Travel –**

**Motion to approve Haverkamp to attend the Governor’s Economic Development Conference in Madison was made by Bluthardt, and seconded by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Correspondence and Communications –**

Weber mentioned that he is continuing to check Link America to see who is approved to receive the internet stimulus.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –**

**Motion to adjourn at 10:10 a.m. by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

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