

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on March 7, 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, Jim Behling, & Ed Bluthardt; others Ken Stubbe, VCEDC Economic Executive Director; Roger Weber, Chances 'R; Kelly Haverkamp, UWEX, & Rosemary Leveille  
Media present: Ken Anderson  
The following County Board members were excused: Emil Bakka  
The following County Board members were absent:

**Introductions –**

Introductions were not needed this month.

**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 February 7, 2011 by Sitzberger, second by Behling. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Economic Development Reports and Updates –**

a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Stubbe reported that the local company looking for a loan from the Small Business Administration was turned down and he is working with them to find alternative sources of investment. He also linked another local source with the Oldenburg Corporation. The VCEDC has developed a 90 day strategic plan and are working on completing the task at hand. Don Sidlowski from Three Lakes, WI spoke at the VCEDC's broadband committee meeting on how and why they did their own mapping and study of broadband. VCEDC will be trying to find monies for developing and/or financing affordable internet for the County. Haverkamp gave the committee members the 2010 information sheet (on file in the UWEX office) on the speeds of internet in Wisconsin from last year's stimulus money from showing how Wisconsin is falling behind. There is a committee within VCEDC formed to help with classes and advisors for the public to learn how to start a successful business and much more. Egan commented that the people need to come for help in order for VCEDC to help.

b) Grow North – Stubbe stated the Joe Hegge has been hired as the interim director of the grant project and is already working on a strategic plan and a business plan. Also a collaborative effort between Grow North and the County Chamber of Commerce are working on a JEM grant.

c) Other Economic Development Activities – Haverkamp distributed a written report (on file in the UWEX office) on the WEDA conference she attended. She highlighted the idea of forming a young professional organization, and stated that within the five county group she is working with Dan Kuzlik, Oneida County Community Resource Development agent, on "branding" surveys. Bluthardt and Haverkamp both stated that the WEDA conference was geared to large counties and not the smaller rural county. An idea on sponsoring a conference for the smaller rural counties was sparked and will be placed on next month's agenda for discussion on the possibility of having one take place in the future.

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

A budget update (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the members along with the voucher for this month, Kathleen Haverkamp-\$222.47. **A motion was made to accept the budget update and approve the voucher by Behling, and second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Out-of-County Travel –**

No travel for this month.

**Correspondence and Communications –**

Wisconsin Counties Association will be having seminars to discuss the budget adjustments bill and the Governor's biennial budget. The next one is in Menominee County on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 4, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –**

**Motion to adjourn at 10:23a.m. by Bluthardt, second by Sitzberger. 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