

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on May 2, 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, Emil Bakka & Ed Bluthardt; others Ken Stubbe, VCEDC Economic Executive Director; Roger Weber, Chances 'R; Kelly Haverkamp, UWEX, Collette Sorgel, VCEDC Board Member & Rosemary Leveille
Media present:
The following County Board members were excused:
The following County Board members were absent:

Approve Agenda: Motion by Sitzberger, second by Bakka 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 April 4, 2011 by Bakka, second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

- a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Egan stated that VCEDC is working with several businesses; a gourmet candy company, a grocery store, and the pellet company have hit yet another bump and are working on climbing over. The VCEDC has conducted a business and retention expansion survey. As soon as the results have been compiled they will be distributed. Over 100 businesses took the survey. The survey asked if anyone would be interested in receiving some assistance, 14 businesses made that request.
- b) Grow North – Egan was unable to attend the last meeting. He did state that Grow North is still working on their grant.
- c) Other Economic Development Activities – Haverkamp stated that VCEDC is sponsoring a “Lunch & Learn” on Wednesdays in May with a 1 hour presentation on marketing. Eagle River Roasters, Dan Beihoff will be partnering with Haverkamp for the May sessions and this could possibly be expanded to more topics. Egan announced that there is an interested party in the Nagel Saw Mill with discussions taking place on how to handle the ground contamination. Sitzberger attended the NCWRPC meeting. He noted that they have one Governor appointed position and would like nominations. The nominations need to go through the county board chair. Egan will inform Favorite, Vilas County Board Chair that Collette Sorgel would like to serve on the committee. He also gave the members a copy of their Strategic Planning Report from Jan. 26, 2011 and a list of projects that is being worked on and will be worked on (on file in the UWEX office). The Vilas County Zoning Dept. is considering a lease agreement with the DNR that allows private companies to lease space on public towers. This information comes from Jim Schultz.

Discuss planning questions for a Rural Economic Development Conference –

The first item to discuss is whether or not to have a conference and how large of an area to cover. It was suggested to have a one day conference with local counties. No decision was made. Weber suggested that the town chairs be invited to the meetings of Economic Development to become familiar with what is taking place at Economic Development meetings and the groups that they work with. **Motion by Sitzberger, second by Bluthardt for Haverkamp to send a letter of inquiry to the town chairs and asking what is their most important issue and how can the Economic Development committee help them. Motion carried unanimously.**

Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –

A budget update (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the committee. There were no bills for this month.

Out-of-County Travel –

No travel for this month.

Correspondence and Communications –

Webber sent an email to Egan regarding the County website and the fact that it is not kept current. A decision to forward this to the Public Property committee was made.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, June 6, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn by Sitzberger, second by Bakka at 11:00 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: Rosemary Leveille