

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on August 1, 2011 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

**Present:** The following persons were present: County Board members Bob Egan, Jim Behling, Emil Bakka, Ralph Sitzberger, & Ed Bluthardt; others Ken Stubbe, VCEDC director; Kelly Haverkamp, UWEX, & Rosemary Leveille

Media present:

The following County Board member was excused:

The following County Board members were absent:

**Approve Agenda: Motion by Bakka, 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 July 11, 2011 by Bakka, second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Economic Development Reports and Updates –**

**a)** Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Stubbe stated that he is working on a proposal to use the unoccupied front office space of Wisconsin Public Service as an incubator for upcoming businesses. The incubator will furnish business plan writing assistance, low office space rent, internet access, limited usual office equipment, access to angel network assistance, and more. Stubbe and Haverkamp will be hosting one of the classes for the entrepreneur in August at Trees For Tomorrow offered by Nicolet College. The VCEDC has set up an ongoing internet café at the Northland Pines High School. The next board meeting will be August 15<sup>th</sup>. A technical meeting with one of the Cellcom owners will take place in August also to discuss internet access and more.

**b)** Grow North – Egan discussed the ongoing work for better collaboration within the 5 counties. They also have an interim director and are working on getting funding to make this a permanent part-time position.

**c)** Other Economic Development Activities – North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning has many plans in the works such as: partnering with private individual/companies, paying for advertising to draw people/companies, changed their mill rates, and cutting their budget to lower County's yearly dues. Egan announced that the County Chair has assigned him to the Railroad Committee which is presently in the process of finding out how the Canadian National Railroad is functioning in Northern Wisconsin. Stubbe stated that the Department of Commerce is no longer and the items that they addressed have been relocated to several departments including the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Stubbe was asked if he could help determine environmental process that might come up with starting new businesses. He stated that he could assist somewhat with steering someone to the right area, but to work on that before a business comes across the problem is somewhat futile.

**Preliminary 2012 Budget –**

**Motion by Sitzberger to accept the preliminary 2012 budget memo and forward it to the Finance Committee was made second by Bluthardt. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

A budget update (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the committee. **Motion by Behling to accept the budget update and second by Bluthardt. Motion carried.**

**Out-of-County Travel –**

**Motion by Sitzberger, second by Bakka to approve Egan attending all of the Railroad Committee meetings for the rest of the year. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Correspondence and Communications –**

Egan stated that John Westbury from Workforce Development has not yet completed his study on ATV's. Westbury will forward his results or present them in person as soon as possible.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –**

**Motion to adjourn by Sitzberger at 10:12a.m.**

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

Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille