

Economic Development Committee Amended Meeting

November 7, 2011

Behling, vice chair, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on November 7, 2011 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members: Emil Bakka, Ed Bluthardt, Ralph Sitzberger, & Jim Behling; others Collette Sorgel, Roger Weber, & Rosemary Leveille
Media present: Jon Helgeson
The following County Board member was excused: Bob Egan
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 October 3, 2011 by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Sorgel stated that Steve Burrill, board chairman of the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation, will be hosting a luncheon with Governor Walker on December 13, 2011 which will be by invitation only. Some of the discussion points will be the need for rural expansion, a training fund, and broadband for the area. There will be a time for individual questions also. The fund raising for Vilas County Economic Development Corporation is going well. Invitations are going out to individuals with expertise in different aspects and types of business that would like to become advisors to new businesses. The work on an incubator continues.

b) Grow North – Sorgel said that Grow North has a public meeting set for November 9th from 8:00 am to 9:30 am at the Eagle River Inn that will launch initiatives adopted by the region 2 team of Link WISCONSIN. Grow North now has the base level funding to hire a director who will be working on workforce development, infrastructure, and showcasing the reason why businesses want to come to northern Wisconsin.

c) Other Economic Development Activities – Behling stated that specific issues and topics should be discussed next month to have on hand to discuss with the Governor at the December 13th luncheon. The committee feels that they need to understand what VCEDC needs from them to be useful or J. Behling stated that maybe the committee is no longer needed. Sitzberger informed the committee that he had a copy of the NCWRPC budget if anyone wanted to see it and the surplus in each county's budget with them was reduced for the 2012 budget cycle. Also he stated that the railroad commission will be asking for a \$500 membership fee in the near future.

Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –

A budget update (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the committee. The following voucher was presented to the committee; southern Computer Warehouse-\$298.18. **A motion by Sitzberger, second by Bakka to approve the voucher as presented. Motion carried. A motion by Sitzberger, second by Bluthardt to accept the budget update as presented. Motion carried.**

Out-of-County Travel –

None for this month.

Correspondence and Communications –

Weber asked if there will be any connection with Grow North and Link Wisconsin at the Grown North meeting in November. Sorgel state that VCEDC is trying to get permission with the DNR to co-locate on their towers.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 5, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –
Meeting was adjourned by Behling by at 9:50 a.m.**

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