

Egan, chair, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on January 9, 2012 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members: Bob Egan, Emil Bakka, Ralph Sitzberger, Ed Bluthardt, & Jim Behling; others & Rosemary Leveille
Media present: John Helgeson
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 December 5, 2011 by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Report on Governor's Luncheon –

Egan said that in his opinion the luncheon was successful with 134 paid attendees. VCEDC has received donations and will hopefully continue to receive support from those that support them now. The VCEDC board will follow up with those that attended for support also. The topic of internet was once again discussed and the state was asked to try and help with the problem and also the subject of tax cuts to internet providers for the rural areas was mentioned.

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

- a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Egan distributed and discussed an accomplishments list (on file in the UWEX office) from VCEDC for 2011. Egan highlighted a few items: one being the establishing of 2 incubators for starting up companies; and a new approach on internet solutions 1) asking for lower rural area pricing from the companies, 2) the viability of public-private companies through the state, and 3) the viability of public-private companies through the county. Behling asked about the possibility of starting a county revolving loan fund. Egan stated that they should consult with someone on the whys and wherefores, and would contact Deb Clemens from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to come to a future meeting.
- b) Grow North – They are moving forward with their plans and starting to use the grant funds in the 5 counties.
- c) Other Economic Development Activities – Steve Burrill and Dick Lienenkugel will present the VCEDC annual report to the County Board at the March County Board meeting.

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; Vilas County Economic Development Corporation-\$100,000. **A motion by Bluthardt, second by Sitzberger to approve the voucher as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Out-of-County Travel –

Motion by Sitzberger, second by Bakka to approve Egan's attendance to the WEDA Governor's Conference in Madison on February 8 – 10, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Communications –

None

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Bakka stated that he will not be able to attend the February meeting.

**Adjournment –
Egan adjourned the meeting at 9:50a.m.**

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