

Egan, chair, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on March 5, 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; others Ken Stubbe, Roger Weber, & Rosemary Leveille

Media present:

The following County Board member was excused: Jim Behling

The following County Board members were absent:

Approve Agenda: Motion by Bluthardt, 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 March 5, 2012 with the following correction to change North Lakeland students to Lakeland Union High School students 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 the incubator at the former Cranberry Products office is now being cleaned and made ready to open. Sonic Net will be supplying internet services for half-price, Ogren Electronics will be setting up video conferencing free of charge, and with Public Property Committee’s approval VCEDC will be “shopping” for office furniture in the POD of the courthouse. There are 2 other incubators in the works; one to be in Eagle River on the Trig’s campus and the other will be in Arbor Vitae. VCEDC is setting up a cooperative marketing place online for any business in Vilas County to use called “Buy Vilas”. This is a spot on their website that businesses can advertise and have online sales available to them. VCEDC will be having a business meeting for businesses in the county to acquire more monetary support. They have been in contact with the governor’s office for financial support for the Transthermal Company in Arbor Vitae, also. A few businesses will be presenting their ideas, and investment needs at the next investors meeting. Stubbe and Behling are working the possibility of starting a revolving loan at the County level. Leveille informed the committee of a letter from the City of Eagle River regarding a meeting for their Plan Commission to consider the signage for the Vilas County Business Incubator to take place on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

b) Grow North – Stubbe stated the state no longer wants to have individual revolving loans and wants to regionalize. Grow North and VCEDC are trying to get a local fund set up for their 5 counties instead of being attached to a regional group of 11 counties; all of which have different needs, where the 5 counties are very similar and know of each other’s needs. Grow North is expanding their website, working with the branding, and looking to make the part-time director a full time position.

c) Other Economic Development Activities – NCWRPC is working on social networks.

Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –

Leveille distributed the update of the budget. **Motion by Bakka, second by Sitzberger to approve the update of the budget. Motion carried.**

Out-of-County Travel –

None for this month.

Correspondence and Communications –

None for this month.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 7, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment –

Sitzberger made the motion to adjourn the meeting second was made by Bakka at 10:00 a.m.

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

Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille