

Bluthardt, chair, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on May 7, 2012 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

**Present:** The following persons were present: County Board members: Ed Bluthardt, Emil Bakka, Ralph Sitzberger, Chuck Hayes, & Lorin Johnson; others Ken Stubbe, Bob Egan, Deb Clemens, Naletta Burr, Bill Lochte, Roger Weber, Lori Schultz, & Rosemary Leveille  
Media present: Joe DeLaarschot  
The following County Board member was excused:  
The following County Board members were absent:

**Introductions –**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**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 2, 2012 of the Economic Development Committee by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye**

**Economic Development Reports and Updates –**

**a)** Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Stubbe explained what VCEDC is all about and how they were formed through the Economic Development Committee and Vilas County. Lochte announced the first business incubator will be opening in June and an art incubator will be following soon after. An open house has been set for June 25<sup>th</sup>. The first business for the incubator will be a financial business that is looking to expand. Lochte stated that the VCEDC is moving along with all of their efforts but will most likely need continued funding from Vilas County. VCEDC has 3 main initiatives at the moment: 1. Incubators; 2. Buy Vilas, a website for local businesses to promote internet sales; and 3. Broadband services. Stubbe stated that there is approximately \$13 million in the WEDC revolving loan fund. Vilas County will have access to some of the through Grown North and the Cinergy Counties regional fund. Emil Bakka will remain as the County representative to VCEDC and Lorin Johnson will be the other County representative as per the VCEDC by-laws.

**b)** Grow North – Stubbe distributed a copy of the Grow North agenda (on file in the UWEX office) to the committee. There was a suggestion to invite Joe Hegge, Executive Director of Grow North to address the committee. The committee will discuss, at the next meeting, who will represent them at the Grow North meetings.

**c)** Other Economic Development Activities – nothing for today.

**Revolving Loan fund update – Deb Clemens**

Deb Clemens distributed handouts (on file in the UWEX office) and discussed them. She then introduced Naletta Burr the WEDC Community Account Manager for Economic and Community Development for the area. She will be WEDC point of contact for your needs. WEDC is creating a statewide data base for access to all Wisconsin businesses that would like to be considered for industrial site certification.

*Ed Bluthardt left at 10:00 am.*

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

Leveille distributed the update of the budget.

**Out-of-County Travel –**

Bakka notified the committee that he attended a VCEDC meeting in Minocqua that was approved by Egan last month.

**Correspondence and Communications –**

Sitzberger announce that Vilas County has the best tourism dollar return for Northern Wisconsin, and has increased in population. He also produced a profile on Vilas County from the NCWRPC for anyone that would like to see it. An email (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the committee regarding “Community Food Systems” from the UWEX office.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items –**

The next regular meeting will be Monday, June 4, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

**Adjournment –**

**Sitzberger made the motion to adjourn the meeting second was made by Johnson at 10:20 a.m.**

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

Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille