

Economic Development Committee Meeting

January 7, 2014

Vice Chair Hayes called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 1:08 p.m. on January 7, 2014 at the Hwy 70 West Incubator Facility, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members: Ralph Sitzberger, Mark Rogacki, Emil Bakka and Chuck Hayes; others present included County Economic Development Bob Egan, State Representative Rob Swearingen and aide, Dan Perchinsky. Ed Bluthardt and Chris Stark absent. No Media present.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda to be handled in any order at the discretion of the Vice Chair by Bakka and seconded by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye. Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting taken on December 2, 2013 by Sitzberger and seconded by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) updates:

- a. Economic Development – Egan updated the committee on the Hwy. 70W Incubator facility and the businesses that will be coming into this building. Egan informed Rep. Swearingen on the sizable amount of money that Mr. Juday has contributed to this building and to Nicolet College for entrepreneurial scholarships for Vilas County residents only. There have been 19 graduates from this class. Next 12 week class will start January 23rd. A marketing person is working with a business in the Cranberry Incubator by putting information on a Facebook page which has brought the business an order from Turkey. More enthusiasm is being generated with the incubators. Discussion on how the incubators are doing and some of the ideas that are coming forth. Broadband is a very important tool for businesses up here. Tribal communications in regards to broadband is going well and moving forward. Rogacki asked if Wisconsin has any sister state relationship like we used to have with Germany, Rep. Swearingen said to contact the Lt. Gov. Office. Rogacki was wondering if the State of WI would enjoy the possibility of a relationship with another country that we could provide a service or product to. He thinks it would be valuable. Egan told Rep. Swearingen of how the DNR was most helpful in working with the problems this building had. Rep. Swearingen inquires about the Northland Pines curriculum in regards to keeping the young people here after graduation. Egan confirms that they are working on this at the school level and also with Nicolet College. Discussion on this issue.
- b. Grow North – Nothing at this time.
- c. Railroad Commission – No report at this time, next meeting will be in February. Sitzberger brought the committee up to date on what has happened so far.
- d. Other Economic Development Activities – No report.

Monthly Budget Review/Statement of Bills – Nothing at this time.

Out of County Travel – Nothing at this time.

Correspondence and Communications – County board resolution on the metallic mining to be coming forth. Hayes asked Rep. Swearingen if there was anything we could do to help this area and he answered that communication is always good, to call his office if there are any questions.

Future Meeting Dates/Items – The next regular meeting will be February 3, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment – Hayes adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. for a guided tour of the facility.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the committee. Submitted by: Gail Kukanich