



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, January 6, 2017
Nicolet College, Northwoods 207
Rhineland, Wisconsin

MINUTES

PRESENT:

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| Berry, Chris | Close, Angie | Doud, Melissa * | Egan, Bob* | Ehrfurth, Paul* |
| Gehlhoff, Wendy* | Justa, Nicole | Luce, Roger | Oldham, Vicky | Sage, Lisa (Recorder) |
| Sorgel, Collette | | | | |

| BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING | | |
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| Topic | Discussion | Action |
| Call to Order & Introductions | President Collette Sorgel called the meeting to order, and introductions were made. | Meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM |
| Approval of Agenda | <i>Motion to approve the agenda as written (Angie Close), seconded (Carolyn Ritter), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit A</i> | Motion Carried |
| Approval of Minutes | <i>Motion to approve minutes from the Friday, December 4, 2016 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting as written (Bob Egan), seconded (Nicole Justa), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit B</i> | Motion Carried |
| Financial Report | <p>Treasurer Roger Luce distributed and reviewed the Financial Report as of December 31, 2016. The projected annual budget had been distributed via email. There was discussion regarding financial issues, current financial status, and upcoming expense items.</p> <p><i>Motion to approve the Financial Report as written (Chris Berry), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit C</i></p> <p><i>Motion to approve the Annual Budget for the calendar year 2017 as presented (Collette Sorgel), seconded (Paul Ehrfurth), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit D</i></p> | <p>Motion Carried</p> <p>Motion Carried</p> |
| Working Committee Reports | <p>Top Project Updates</p> <p><u>By-Laws Committee – Paul Ehrfurth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Collette updated the BOD and shared that reworking portions of the by-laws is in progress. o A decision was made to have Executive Committee (EC) meetings held only on demand (or in emergency situations for high level decisions). The EC will consist of BOD officers as well as two county Economic Development Corporation (EDC) representatives. o The full BOD will once again complete be responsible for completing most projects and making day-to-day decisions. o There was discussion regarding the 2017 meeting schedule. The BOD will meet bi-monthly as planned (the official 2017 meeting schedule will be distributed with these minutes). o A suggestion was made to invite all area legislators and interested community members to the annual BOB/Membership combined meeting in May. AT&T has generously donated \$2,000 to Grow North to pay for the costs of the annual meeting. This will include invitations, postage, catering and other associated costs for this meeting. The meeting will be held in Three Lakes at the Three Lakes Center for the Arts on Thursday, May 4, 2017*. The morning meeting will be followed by a 90-minute roundtable | |

discussion where members, legislators and other attendees will learn about GN key initiatives and ongoing projects.

- *The date of the annual meeting in May was changed to accommodate an important event being hosted by Nicolet College. On Friday, May 5, 2017, Nicolet College will offer Leadercast, a leadership conference simultaneously broadcast to select sites worldwide. This one-day conference offers attendees an opportunity to learn from a diverse panel of dynamic, successful speakers well known nationally and worldwide as experts in their fields. This event includes continental breakfast and lunch. More information on Leadercast will be distributed within the next month, and all Grow North members and officers are invited to attend. For more information, call Nicolet College Workforce & Economic Development at 715.365.4905.
- Collette wants to pick a committee for EC next year so structure is decided. Paul will have by-laws ready by next week, and then the committee can reconvene to work out final details. Planned are designated staggered terms for members and officers.

Workforce Development– Derek Heikkinen, Chair

- Derek reported that he'd met with Chuck Kopp (Nicolet College) regarding his (Derek's) offer to work as Grow North's lead representative to the Northwoods Innovations organization. On Friday, January 13, 2017, he'll be attending their meeting to help map out and align workforce strategies as well as encourage them to work GN initiatives into their strategic plans.
- To help bring more students into the technical college system, he's been working on a research project mapping out top in-demand careers requiring a 2-year degree (report will contain wages and job outlook etc.).
- He's also developed a career pathways presentation to help schools prepare students who aren't on a 4-year college track to pursue a 2-year college degree.

Forestry/Rail– Wendy Gehlhoff, Chair

- Wendy is scheduling a conference call with the Forestry/Rail committee. Also meeting to discuss current and new wood products markets with an emphasis on exporting. She's learned a lot sawmills, processes, improvement processes, and has working knowledge of who can best help with each project. Finding ways to bring in value-added work while turning raw materials into finished work.
- She updated the group on various meetings she's attended or has scheduled. In There will be a Rhinelander Transit meeting on January 22, 2017 held in the lower level of the Timber Producers building and Grow North BOD members are invited to attend.

Broadband– Roger Luce, Chair/Chris Stark, Co-Chair

- Roger shared that within the next week there will be legislation passed that will offer more funding for rural broadband. Broadband funding requests will be due by the end of February. If anyone is has broadband projects to be funded, plan for a short turnaround time.

Marketing/PR– Angie Close, Chair/Collette Sorgel, Co-Chair

- It was decided not to pursue the rebranding grant because it would not cover what GN needs done at this point. Carl Rudebusch kindly offered to pay for website updates, and Collette is having that work done by a local independent contractor.
- Collette met with Sandy Bishop and Roger Luce regarding a marketing grant for the northern region to further update the website as well as produce radio and other advertising for a broader reach. This would be an exhaustive grant but Sandy feels a grant writer could be hired to help with the project. Collette will follow up in March.

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| | <p><u>Entrepreneurship– Bob Egan, Chair</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bob and Sandy Bishop applied for a WEDC grant for Entrepreneurial Education, which was approved. They're now putting together a survey of past graduates asking for feedback on their thoughts for moving forward. More information will be available at the end of the month. o A new course is being created for people with disabilities to become to learn to be Health Care Assistants. For students, it's a 16-week course (one day per week). Parents or caregivers will attend an eight-week course (one evening per week). Eight employers will hire students immediately from this program. Bob was happy to say that there are more and more opportunities for people with disabilities to join the workforce. | |
| <p>County Updates</p> | <p><u>Florence County- Wendy Gehlhoff</u></p> <p>Wendy mentioned a Sustainable Forest conference to be held on April 20, 2017. Florence's new pharmacy opened last week. She met with Brush Club to work on bringing in retirees to tap into their expertise. Working with Michigan, whose employers are slowing their growth due to lack of employable persons. Fab Lab is going well, and community members are really getting involved. Working on curriculum to work industry standards into what students initially learn.</p> <p><u>Forest County- No update</u></p> <p><u>Langlade County- Angie Close</u></p> <p>Wendy reported that the Antigo Fab Lab is coming along but a bit behind schedule. They've applied for a WEDC grant and got donated equipment from local manufacturers. Received funding to grow this program. There's an expansion to the Langlade Aspirus hospital underway. Unemployment numbers have dropped.</p> <p><u>Oconto County – Paul Ehrfurth</u></p> <p>Oconto completed a comprehensive economic development and business strategy plan, identifying five major strategies to best move forward. They've created an entrepreneurial innovation network and are utilizing a consultant. They're trying to identify retirees with underutilized skills to be mentors for budding entrepreneurs.</p> <p><u>Oneida County- Roger Luce</u></p> <p>Rhineland HS held an open house to introduce its new Fab Lab. Planning to offer training sessions "train the trainers" sessions beginning this summer. They are fundraising right now. Trying to develop common curriculum for all Fab Lab facilities, which is an opportunity to share nationwide.</p> <p>OCDC is preparing a strategic plan around entrepreneurial development and hoping to incorporate what VCEDC has done- including 'second home visitors' and retirees working with entrepreneurs to serve as mentors.</p> <p><u>Vilas County- Carolyn Ritter</u></p> <p>Bob Egan updated the board about VCEDC activities. Phelps HS submitted an app for Fab Lab. Carl Ruedebusch offered to contribute to the project. The courthouse renovation is going well. Planning to work with the DNR to clean up the naval property. There is a small businesses in incubator.</p> | <p>FRO</p> |
| <p>Other Updates</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicky Oldham: NWTC facility in Niagra will soon relocate to Aurora, where they found a larger facility. Building needs remodeling but they'll move now. • Chris Berry offered a potential project idea for building capacity through training instructors and others in Fab Labs. She will gather more information on this project and bring it back to the board. • Collette: Choose key initiatives for legislator discussion at annual meeting in May. Derek could talk about WFD and how it aligns with Fab Lab | |

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| | integration. There will be a meet and greet from 10:30- 11 a.m., then a 90-minute roundtable discussion. Key initiative people might want to plan a 5-minute update on what each initiative is accomplishing. Robin from ATT&T plans to moderate the meeting and keep it on course. Need to plan a press release as well as a 'save the date' notification to go out soon. | |
| Adjourn | <i>Motion to adjourn (Nicole Justa), seconded (Vicky Oldham), all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.</i> | Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM |

Next Executive Committee & Board of Directors meeting:

Friday, March 3, 2017
 Executive Committee from 9:30 – 10 am
 Full BOD from 10 am - 12 pm
 Fireside Room (Red Oak Building, formerly UTC)
 Nicolet College, Rhinelander