



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Friday, October 2, 2015  
 Nicolet College – UTC Fireside  
 Rhinelander, Wisconsin

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Berry, Chris	Bouché, Jim	Doud, Melissa	Hintz, Tim
Jackson, Christi	Jameson, Joshua (phone)	Justa, Nicole	LaMue, Barb
Maule, Ken	Nelson, Richard	Ruedebusch, Carl	Sage, Lisa
Schreiber, Angi	Sorgel, Collette	Stark, Chris	

<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Call to Order &amp; Introductions</b>	President Nicole Justa called the meeting to order.  Introductions were made.	<b>Meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM</b>
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<i>Motion to approve the current agenda as amended (Collette Sorgel), seconded (Tim Hintz), all in favor. <b>Exhibit A</b></i>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<i>Motion to approve minutes from the September 4, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting as written (Tim Hintz), seconded (Ken Maule), all in favor. <b>Exhibit B</b></i>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
<b>Approval of Financial Report</b>	On behalf of Treasurer Lisa Spencer, Secretary Collette Sorgel reviewed the financial report as of October 1, 2015.  There was discussion regarding changing the annual budget system to a fiscal year versus the current calendar year system. The executive committee will discuss this at the next meeting.  <i>Motion to approve the financial report and document as provided (Ken Maule), seconded (Tim Hintz), all in favor. <b>Exhibit C</b></i>	<b>Motion Carried</b>
<b>President's Report</b>	<u>Strategy Forum Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exhibit D</b> (Folder of information from Strategy Forum Update held on 9/24/15) Members discussed the forum and how it supported Grow North's initiatives; everyone agreed there was good dialogue and great turnout.</li> <li>• Carl Ruedebusch has plans for the group to reconvene in about six months to mark progress and focus on further regional growth.</li> <li>• Jim Bouché (LUHS) attended the forum and felt it was very well done. He realizes that blended virtual learning complements Grow North's strategic vision, and feels we should work together closely to ensure that students being educated in our area are prepared for careers in the area.</li> <li>• Senator Tiffany sponsored a bill for a publically-owned fleet of rail cars and is now looking for co-sponsors. Nicole asked the BOD and GN general members to call Sen Tiffany in support of this bill. She wondered if GN would wish to draft a letter in support or if individual members might send letters. Chris Berry clarified that this rail grant would support our efforts to export timber from our region and get</li> </ul>	

	<p>truck traffic off highways as well. Sending out a letter from BOD would require a motion; Nicole will send out email poll to get consensus on what to send out.</p> <p><u>Sponsorship Form for Funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angi created a sponsorship form for groups seeking some sort of sponsorship funding to complete and return to GN. She mentioned some of the initiatives that GN has sponsored over past years. She's looking for feedback on her form. She will send out an email enclosing the new form, explaining how she came up with it, and asking for suggestions.</li> <li>• Nicole wonders who should review and approve these requests- the whole BOD or just the executive committee. A decision would require a motion to move forward.</li> <li>• Carl R. recommended that before we agree to sponsor or fund any initiatives, it would be a good idea to align the budget so we ensure the money is available.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Executive Director's Update</b></p>	<p><u>Activity Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angi is on a strategic planning committee for the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board; she feels they're not well represented in the Northwoods. They want to partner with regionals and other area entities involved with workforce development initiatives, but to ensure there is collaboration and not duplication of work. Their goal is to become the leader for workforce development; Angi feels this relationship will be beneficial.</li> <li>• WEDC funding has been approved, contract will be available soon. GN is approved for \$50,000 base funding with the ability to apply for additional capacity grants if necessary.</li> <li>• Angi was a panelist at a breakout session at the recent WEDA conference in Wisconsin Dells. She felt that the panel communicated that smaller counties in smaller rural areas can do so much more than expected just by having relationships and building connections between regionals, county boards, etc.</li> <li>• Apparently, there are questions by county boards statewide regarding regionals and how many jobs they have created; it must be shared widely that the mission is to support businesses that create jobs.</li> <li>• There was discussion about WEDC and minimum wages throughout the state and how the minimum wage influences qualification for tax credits.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Working Committee Reports</b></p>	<p>Nicole asked if the working committees have been meeting, and stated that each committee needs a chair- whether the chair position be appointed or volunteer, it is necessary to keep committees on task.</p> <p><u>Broadband</u> – No report</p> <p><u>Workforce Development</u> – No report</p> <p><u>Forestry &amp; Rail</u> – Chris Berry Chris Berry recently attended the Leadership Wisconsin seminar and found there is a huge demand for wood products (specifically railroad ties and timber mats) by the petroleum industry. She is investigating where petroleum shows will be held so we can make an effort to attend and highlight the wood products industry that northern Wisconsin offers. She also plans to schedule meetings with businesses to ensure they are aware of the potential to sell to a new sector.</p> <p><u>Capacity Building</u> – Nicole Justa There is a new sponsorship level card being developed; however, she feels we need to have summarized what we've accomplished, what our</p>	

	<p>specific goals and work plans are. Basically, she thinks we need to define what everyone is trying to accomplish. She asked for volunteers to chair the committees, to keep them on task. She wondered if the board should appoint chairpersons for the committees. For now, Nicole asked each committee to focus and choose two of the initiatives from the work plans <b>(EXHIBIT E)</b>.</p> <p>Angi will send out email about chairs for committees and how to proceed. Collette suggested scheduling a session for all the committees to meet at the same place and same time rather than everyone trying to meet separately.</p>	
<b>County &amp; Tribal Updates</b>	<p><u>Lac du Flambeau Tribal Update</u></p> <p>The business development corporation is restructuring several businesses, building a CBRF, and is now working on hiring employees- planning for "soft" open in early November. There is a grant application being processed for a technology education center. They hosted a summit in August and hope to host another one soon- they will keep GN notified.</p>	
<b>Education Update</b>	<p>After listening in on the meeting, Jim Bouché reminded everyone about the importance of tying all aspects of education together to want to move to our area- for companies to be willing to move because we have a workforce ready for them. It takes a community to work teaching young people to be responsible citizens.</p> <p>Chris Berry added that she feels additional educators should be appointed to GN, or that a forum should be created specifically for education issues. This led to a conversation about the role of education in economic development.</p> <p>Barb LaMue added that WEDC wants to support GN in any way they can, but they need ideas as to how GN would like to be represented in national and international outreach trade missions so they're better prepared.</p>	
<b>Other New or Old Business</b>	<p>Chris Stark- UWEX mentioned that there has been an employee shortage in the Eagle River area. Members of the Main Street Program met to discuss labor force issues and it was found that the majority of outside help in the area is from out of the country (Romania, Poland, China, etc.) They're not sure where they're going next with the process, but he will keep GN updated.</p> <p>Carl R. suggested that this organization needs more representation from private businesses, as they are the ones hiring people. He further commented that there are large-scale players within each region from various counties; contacts need to be made to promote the dual purposes of finance and input.</p>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>Motion to adjourn (Collette Sorgel), seconded (Tim Hintz), all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.</p>	<b>Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM</b>



**Next BOD Meeting:**

Friday, November 6, 2015  
Nicolet College, Rhinelander

**Note:** PDF of Exhibits available by request only. Email Lisa Sage at [lsage@nicoletcollege.edu](mailto:lsage@nicoletcollege.edu) to request a copy.