



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, August 7, 2015

Downtown Rhinelander, Inc. Offices & Downtown Business Incubator
30 W. Davenport Street, Rhinelander, Wisconsin

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Berry, Chris	Boerke, Jim	Burr, Naletta	Close, Angie	Ditzler, David
Doud, Melissa	Egan, Bob	Gehlhoff, Wendy	Hartnell, Ann	Heikkenin, Derek
Hintz, Tim	Juon, Ken	Justa, Nicole	Kuzlik, Dan	Lippert, Mary Ann
Luce, Roger	Nelson, Richard	Peterson, Don	Ruedebusch, Carl	Sage, Lisa
Schreiber, Angi	Skallerud, Ron	Sorgel, Collette	Theobald, Joni	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order & Introductions	President Nicole Justa called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Dan Kuzlik welcomed members to Downtown Rhinelander.	Meeting was called to order at 10:11 AM
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the current agenda as written (Collette Sorgel), seconded (Wendy Gehlhoff), all in favor. Exhibit A	Motion Carried
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve minutes from the June 26, 2015 Board of Directors/Working Meeting as written (Wendy Gehlhoff), seconded (Collette Sorgel), all in favor. Exhibit B	Motion Carried
Approval of Financial Report	Via phone, Lisa Spencer reviewed the financial report as of August 6, 2015. Motion to approve the financial report and document as provided (Bob Egan), seconded (Tim Hintz), all in favor. Exhibit C	Motion Carried
	Motion to approve organization credit card use policy and issue a credit card with \$1,500 limit to Executive Director Angi Schreiber (Wendy Gehlhoff), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor. Exhibit D	Motion Carried
Executive Director's Update	<p>Angi Schreiber reported on her recent activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEDC update: This year \$50,000, no match requirement (either dollar or in-kind). Any projects funded by WEDC will be Capacity Building Grants from this point on. • Angi recorded advertisements for Coyote 93.7 Radio, and news coverage on WJFW Channel 12. • She distributed new promotional items at Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Fly-In in Oshkosh. She feels that the cell phone wallet is a successful tool; she distributed them to members. EAA/Fly-In went well. • Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) held three meetings in the Northwoods, all which went well. WHEDA's goal is to do more business in this area. 	

	Angi also found out WHEDA offers three-day instructional classes; she feels GN should host one of these workshops for EDCs, Chambers, etc.	
Action Items	<p><i>Nominations for Open VP Position</i></p> <p>A motion was made by Bob Egan to nominate Ron Skallerud (Nicolet College) to the open position of Vice President of Grow North, seconded by Collette Sorgel. No other nominations were made, so a vote was called for and all members were in unanimous favor of Ron's election to the position.</p>	Motion Carried
Working Committee Reports	<p>NOTE: Collette noted that the working committees need to be chaired, and this issue needs to be addressed soon.</p> <p><u>Broadband</u> – Collette Sorgel They obtained \$15,000 to assist in offering broadband surveys. The survey instrument is almost completed and will be sent out to many area towns and cities, and they're anticipating upwards of a 10% response rate. Angi is hoping to receive responses by early September and have grant applications available by the end of September.</p> <p><u>Workforce Development</u> – Ron Skallerud There was discussion about potentially hosting an Economic Summit. Ron noted there needs to be much more preliminary investigation and conversation about what needs to be done before actually scheduling anything, and a summit would need to be aligned with Grow North strategic goals. As a precursor, Nicole has a 2007 study she'll share that polled the GN area for strengths, needs for improvement, etc. Once they have specific goals in mind, the committee will present them to the board for approval.</p> <p><u>Forestry</u> – Don Peterson Don offered a short presentation about the hardwood project in partnership with Grow North, as well an update on the stewardship agreement, on which he's been working for two years. As of yesterday, Wisconsin is the first state in the nation to sign a "Good Neighbor" contract between the state and federal governments, allowing the state to cut in national forests.</p> <p><u>Capacity Building</u> – Nicole Justa Angi will email out the form detailing new GN sponsorship levels, which are more in line with other EDCs. Nicole wants the executive committee to formulate a budget to present to the board for approval. Karl R. noted that before budgeting, GN as an organization needs to budget the money specifically for line items. He'd like to see more long-term budgeting so GN is self-sustaining and prepared to deal with all future contingencies. To that end, he wants to obtain a list of key businesses in member counties and team up with County EDC reps to visit the businesses (to try to obtain additional outside funding sources).</p>	
Member County Reports	<p><u>Florence</u> – Wendy Gehlhoff The Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) projects are progressing: Family Dollar is almost complete, and the assisted living project has hired</p>	

an architect and builder and will break ground next spring. Florence Hardwoods is up, running and occupied. The dog park/RV dump station on the corner of Highways 2/70 was a surprise hit for both tourists and locals. National websites will list the park so even more people stop with their dogs and RVs. An industry-specific advisory committee is working with the school district to move the Fab Lab project ahead.

Forest – No Report

Langlade – Angie Close

A collaborative effort between Co-Vantage Credit Union, the City of Antigo and Langlade County has each investing \$5,000 towards downtown revitalization. There is a new smokehouse in downtown Antigo. They were recently awarded \$10,000 for an entrepreneurial training course beginning in September (which will be 10 weeks long and offer a certificate).

Marinette – Ann Hartnell

Three new businesses, and other businesses are expanding. They've acquired land for a Center of Excellence, and plan to break ground by the end of October.

Oconto – No report

Lincoln – No report

Oneida – Roger Luce

Oneida County is in the process of selling the building currently leased by AVX; they will be closing either by the end of this month or not till March 2016 (early payment clause in lease). This sale money will go into the ongoing marketing fund.

Vilas – Bob Egan

The Manitowish Waters incubator has expanded into an additional building and another is currently being renovated. Phelps has a new look after a building was removed to build a park and bandstand. Projects for 2016 will feature additional transitions in Phelps. The other incubators are also doing well.

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Report – Melissa Doud

The Lac du Flambeau Lending Corporation is doing very well, and continues to help the tribe diversify businesses outside gaming. Their construction company is now bonded and able to go outside state lines. New projects include construction of a CBRF and treatment center, as well as combining the smoke shop/gas station/general store under one roof and taking the store out of tribal supervision.

<p>Guest Speaker</p>	<p>Don Peterson – Hardwood Products Grant Phase 1</p> <p>Don P. from Renewable Resource Solutions gave a short presentation highlighting some of the efforts of the scope of work done. The most important result of this project was the connection established between area economic development staff and forest products specialists. Exhibit E</p>	
<p>Other New or Old Business</p>	<p>Mary Ann Lippert, WDOA, announced that there will be a small downtown forum on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 in Mercer. This event is co-sponsored by WEDC and Wisconsin Rural Partners and is designed for communities 1,500 and under (however, she assured the group no one will be turned away, either). She will send information out early next week to small communities, and encouraged county EDOs to connect with them.</p> <p>Dan Kuzlik mentioned that a Rhinelander Business Incubator tour available for members able to stay after the meeting.</p> <p>There is a Hardwoods Products committee meeting after the board meeting at Nicolet College to discuss Phase 2 planning; everyone is encouraged to attend (11:45 AM- 1 PM).</p>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn (Collette Sorgel), seconded (Ron Skallerud), all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM</p>

Next BOD & Membership Meeting:

Friday, September 4, 2015

Nicolet College, Rhinelander, Wisconsin