



Board of Directors Meeting
 Friday, September 4, 2015
 Nicolet College – Northwoods 208
 Rhinelander, Wisconsin

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Berry, Chris	Close, Angie	Egan, Bob	Heikkinen, Derek
Hintz, Tim	Justa, Nicole	Kuzlik, Dan	LaMue, Barb (phone)
Lasiewicz, Benjamin (phone)	Luce, Roger	Nelson, Richard	Penn, Ted
Ruedebusch, Carl	Sage, Lisa (Recorder)	Schreiber, Angi	Skallerud, Ron
Spencer, Lisa (phone)			

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order & Introductions	President Nicole Justa called the meeting to order.	Meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM
Approval of Agenda	<i>Motion to approve the current agenda as amended [add Education Updates as Item 9] (Ron Skallerud), seconded (Tim Hintz), all in favor.</i> Exhibit A	Motion Carried
Approval of Minutes	<i>Motion to approve minutes from the August 7, 2015 Board of Directors/Working Meeting as written (Bob Egan), seconded (Ron Skallerud), all in favor.</i> Exhibit B	Motion Carried
Approval of Financial Report	On behalf of Treasurer Lisa Spencer (available via phone), Executive Director Angi Schreiber reviewed the financial report as of September 3, 2015. <i>Motion to approve the financial report and document as provided (Ron Skallerud), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor.</i> Exhibit C Based on discussion at the Executive Committee Meeting held on August 31, 2015, Nicole Justa suggested employing a professional accountant. Roger Fuller, CPA, Antigo, has offered his services at \$25 per month for quarterly updates. <i>Motion: On behalf of Grow North, utilize the services of CPA Roger Fuller of Antigo, Wisconsin to provide bookkeeping for the organization (Roger Luce), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor.</i>	Motion Carried Motion Carried
President's Report	Grow North Economic Opportunity Study Summary Exhibit D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicole summarized the report, which detailed the region's strengths and weaknesses as of 2007. There was discussion about what has been done since the study, as well as members contributing pros and cons about whether to hire the original author to repeat the study. Carl Ruedebusch pointed out that broadband wasn't even available when the study was originally conducted. On behalf of Workforce Development Board, Derek Heikkinen offered to complete the study for no cost. Ron will forward the information to him. 	

	<p><u>Grow North's Mission and Direction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was discussion about Angi's new project pulling together old documents about Grow North goals, strategic planning, and successes in order to determine GN's path (past, present and future). She will present her summary at the next BOD meeting on October 2, 2015. Meanwhile, BOD members offered her some initial ideas about how GN can best offer its services as a regional: provide framework for local EDOs to offer surveys; bring forestry groups together so work is not being duplicated; work with Governor's office to ensure summit is a success and provides the information constituents are seeking; ensure that GN is not duplicating the same work that counties are attempting to accomplish; reach out to original founders of GN to discover true historical data; and evaluate and organize the data so GN becomes the effective regional group it was meant to be. <p><u>Strategy Forum Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carl R. shared information about the upcoming Strategy Forum Update to be held at the Whitetail Inn in St. Germain on Thursday, September 24, 2015 from 11:30 AM- 4:30 PM. Senator Tiffany and Representative Swearingen (and hopefully other reps from the GN region) will be in attendance. Carl's plan is to have resident experts from each area of expertise (Forestry/Rail, Broadband, Workforce Development and Capacity Building) present to the group and be available to answer questions at this important event. Carl will donate money to Grow North to cover all expenses incurred by the event, and Grow North will be the official host. The goal of this event is to get all key players and public officials into one room to listen to the issues in the region, to create public awareness, and to be able to go forward with set plans that take into account the region's issues and assets. Invitations will be sent out next week, so Nicole asked that members please share one or two key people in each county to be invited. Please note: This is an invitation-only event, not to be publicized to media or otherwise. <p><i>Motion: Grow North will work with Carl Ruedebusch to organize, sponsor and host the Strategy Forum Update to be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015 (Roger Luce), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor.</i></p>	<p>Motion Carried</p>
<p>Executive Director's Update</p>	<p><u>GIS Subscription: Locate in Wisconsin</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angi explained that reps from nine regions recently met and discussed the GIS system currently in use throughout the state. It's been established that the state has GIS service with potential to serve everyone, yet each region and some counties also have their own GIS subscriptions. It was brought to her attention we could link to state's GIS mapping system for no cost, which could save GN \$6,000 per year in subscription costs. Angie Close (Langlade) noted that she does use this system regularly, so she needs Angi (Schreiber) to share any available transition information with her immediately she can update her system and her contacts are not lost. After a motion was made, it was decided to cancel the subscription as of October 1, to ensure that counties have enough time to transition. Benjamin Lasiewicz (WEDC) explained that GIS is a current project for WEDC and offered his help and expertise during the transition. Angi will send out an email to all GN members, giving Benjamin's contact information and encouraging members to contact him so counties can be issued new identification information well before the deadline/cutoff. <p><i>Motion to non-renew the Locate in Wisconsin GIS service on behalf of Grow North (Roger Luce), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor.</i></p>	<p>Motion Carried</p>

	<p><u>Activity Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angi hopes to have the WEDC questionnaire completed and have contracts out for the remaining \$50,000 by September 15, 2015. Once that's in place, the first draw for third-quarter, base-level funding should be available. • She went on WHEDA tour with Angi Close and Deby Dehn promoting GN and area businesses. • There has been quite a bit of activity surrounding the broadband issue. She participated in an interview with WJFW/NBC Channel 12 to share the latest updates in the local world of broadband, and she said that her email and phone lit up with communities looking for more information. Working with area EDCs, she sent out 14,000 broadband surveys to local communities via regular mail. Despite some mailing issues involving returns due to no postage, no addresses, or both, there has been good response overall. Online surveys using Survey Monkey are also available, and there is a link on the GN website for people to take this survey. Roger Luce noted that one very interesting aspect of the surveys returned is that people are taking the time to leave very long, well-worded comments (which is fairly unusual). Carl asked if he could have copies of the survey comments to take to the Strategy Forum Update. • The annual Heavy Metal Tour will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015. As a sponsor, Grow North's logo will be featured on the back of all t-shirts. Angi will be helping with the tour in Antigo, and asked for additional volunteers to help out in various locations. • Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDA) conference is coming up on 9/24 & 9/25/15 in Wisconsin Dells. Angi will be a panelist on a "Collaboration of Rural Partnerships" with Naletta Burr, Josh Jameson, and Steve Nelson. 	
<p>Working Committee Reports</p>	<p><u>Broadband</u> – Roger Luce Much of the broadband topic was already covered; Roger added that Oneida County's EDC Broadband Committee meets weekly and are putting together a countywide plan to present to the county board on September 15, 2015. Pilot project equipment has been installed on three towers and additional space has been rented from the county, state DOT, and private tower companies. Work continues to upgrade service to 1G download speed; they plan to implement this within two years.</p> <p><u>Workforce Development</u> – Ron Skallerud Ron feels that in order to move forward in the region, it's very important to pinpoint exactly what Grow North's function is versus what the individual players do as part of their day jobs.</p> <p>Workforce development continues to move forward. The technical college system focuses on partnering with the UW system to offer seamless transfer of credit in customized areas, and work is being done in credit for prior learning/career pathways/associate degree level in individualized ITS. He's asked Sandy Bishop, Director of Workforce Development, to serve on this committee as well.</p> <p><u>Forestry</u> – Angie Close The next meeting is coming up soon; they're looking to find trade shows that GN can attend. 'Discover Wisconsin' has a special on forestry tomorrow, Saturday, September 5, 2015.</p> <p><u>Capacity Building</u> – Nicole Justa Nicole distributed an updated investment pledge form. Exhibit E Donation requests get sent out in December; she asked for input, changes, comments and concerns before they get sent out. The updated pledges are now closer in line with other regionals.</p>	

County & Tribal Updates	<p>No county reports were given this month.</p> <p><u>General Tribal Report</u> – Tim Hintz Tim shared that medical marijuana may most likely be coming to the region as a revenue source for the Menomonee Tribe. Details are being worked out, but it appears that tax exempt status for two businesses may be passed through to allow the tribe to conduct business.</p> <p>The Forest County Potawatomi are investing back into community and Forest County in general. They're planning a sizeable expansion to their Health & Wellness Center, and are considering expanding into gas facilities and other alternative energy investments.</p>	
Education Update	<p>Ron Skallerud distributed a brochure, "Hire Up Series: Veterans in the Workplace and the Classroom." Exhibit F This conference will be held on Friday, October 2, 2015 at 7:15 AM at Nicolet College. He encouraged members to come early for next month's BOD meeting, in order to attend at least the early morning part of the session, which will feature keynote speaker veteran Dick Leinenkugel, VP of Leinenkugel's Brewing Company. Ron also shared information about Nicolet's Jump!Start program, which offers education for individuals with intellectual or other disabilities who wish to continue their education and/or continue on to the workforce.</p>	
Other New or Old Business	<p>Upcoming: Governor's Northern Wisconsin Economic Development Summit, December 1 & 2, 2015. No location has been announced yet.</p>	
Adjourn	<p>Motion to adjourn (Ron Skallerud), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.</p>	Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM



Next BOD Meeting:

Friday, October 2, 2015
Nicolet College, Rhinelander, Wisconsin