



Board of Directors Special Meeting

Thursday, June 30, 2016
Nicolet College Northwoods 207
Rhineland, Wisconsin

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Berry, Chris	Bishop, Sandy	Buntrock, Collin*	Close, Angie	Kruse, Lee*
Egan, Bob	Ehrfurth, Paul	Ferris, Mark	Gehlhoff, Wendy	Heikkinen, Derek
Justa, Nicole	Maule, Ken	Millan, Paul	Mueller, Kirk	Oldham, Vicky
Ruedebusch, Carl	Sage, Lisa (recorder)	Skallerud, Ron	Sorgel, Collette	(*via phone)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING		
Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order & Introductions	President Nicole Justa called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.	Meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda as written (Paul Ehrfurth), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit A	Motion Carried
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve minutes from the Friday, May 13, 2016 Board of Directors and Annual Membership Meetings as written (Ken Maule), seconded (Ron Skallerud), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit B	Motion Carried
Approval of Financial Report	Motion to approve Financial Report as of June 30, 2016 (Ron Skallerud), seconded (Bob Egan), all in favor; motion carried. Exhibit C	Motion Carried
Discussion: New Operational Action Plan for Grow North	<p>In an effort to regain energy and forward momentum, the Grow North Executive Committee is considering an updated organizational model. Instead of using WEDC base funding for an Executive Director, they feel the funds could be better utilized to accomplish Grow North's key growth initiatives. Nicole Justa briefly explained the ideas being put forth, and asked for comments and/or additional ideas. Paul Ehrfurth then gave a brief overview of the operations model used by Prosperity Southwest, a group similar in size to Grow North (which sets aside a small amount of money to secure outside administrative support).</p> <p><u>Ideas for discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize WEDC funds to subcontract for administrative support for operational portion of Grow North, i.e., grant submission, etc., Ask financial partners to invest in specific GN key initiatives, If necessary, amend bylaws to restructure Board and Executive Committee to include all member county EDO representatives, 	

- Create additional standing committees to reflect new direction (Marketing/Awareness, Talent Development, Innovations/ Entrepreneurship, etc.),
- Appoint chairs/VPs for key initiatives, and
- Obtain industry experts or have point people for key projects.

Today's discussion points:

- Carl Ruedebusch asked Chris Berry about upcoming funding from WEDC. This year Grow North has access to base level funding of \$50,000, which is dispersed in four deposits over the year and can be used for operational expenses. In addition, there are capacity grants available, and Grow North could apply for project based funding.
- There was discussion regarding WEDC's expectation that least 51% or more of the board be comprised of private sector members. The hope is that GN discussions will work toward that goal as well as more financial participation by the private sector. Chris Berry emphasized that these changes do not have to happen overnight, and urged the board to draw up a proposal to submit to WEDC that works for both parties.
- Collette Sorgel pointed out that Centergy is currently looking for an Executive Director, and that Barb LaMue had suggested that Grow North talk to Centergy about the possibility of sharing costs so each has a half-time Executive Director. Chris Berry noted that another regional model has EDO members rotating through BOD roles of President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Mark Ferris, Town of Hiles, explained that the Town of Hiles joined Grow North last February because of the efforts of the past Executive Director, and that her absence proves an issue for them. Kirk Mueller suggested that the BOD offer a refund to the Town of Hiles in the amount of \$500. The BOD agreed to refund this membership payment, and it can be put on the next agenda if a written request is received before the next meeting. Committee members encouraged Mark and Kirk to reconsider leaving Grow North, as mission remains the same and the key initiatives are still in progress. The group offered support and ideas for other contacts in the Hiles area.
- Bob Egan feels it's important that all economic development corporations be represented on the BOD, even if it means amending the bylaws.
- Angie Close suggested contracting with Nicolet College for additional necessary administrative support. Sandy Bishop explained Nicolet's in-kind donation for administrative support (included is meeting space and associated technology if available, workspace and computer access on campus, a dedicated telephone number and email address, and administrative support for meeting minutes as well as receiving and receipting deposits to Co-Vantage Credit Union). Sandy suggested that an RFP be drawn up and distributed to different entities as well as other technical

	<p>colleges, as it is part of the overarching WTCS mission to assist with economic development.</p> <p>Motion to authorize the BOD Executive Committee to allocate up to \$1,500 per month to Nicolet College for administrative support services during the months of July, August, and September 2016. He asked to add a note of thanks to Nicolet for its in-kind donation of support (Ken Maule), seconded (Derek Heikkinen), all in favor, motion carried. (Note: Ron Skallerud and Bob Egan abstained from voting.)</p> <p>Motion to nominate and elect Collette Sorgel as President of Grow North beginning on July 1, 2016 (Angie Close), seconded (Ken Maule), all in favor, motion carried.</p> <p>Motion to nominate and elect Roger Luce as Interim Treasurer of Grow North continuing from current date until end of 2016, (Collette Sorgel), seconded (Derek Heikkinen), all in favor, motion carried.</p> <p><u>The group updated key initiatives for 2016-17:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Workforce Development - Derek Heikkinen 2) Forestry/Rail – Wendy Gehlhoff 3) Broadband – No volunteer 4) Marketing/PR – No volunteer 5) Entrepreneurship – Bob Egan 6) Admin/Bookkeeping – Paul Ehrfurth <p>Nicole outlined the BOD Executive Committee structure as of July 1, 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Collette Sorgel (Nicole Justa term completed) • VP – Vicky Oldham (Ron Skallerud term completed) • Secretary – Kirk Mueller (Collette Sorgel changing positions) • Treasurer – Roger Luce • Two EDO representatives (Paul Ehrfurth, Roger Luce) <p>Collette clarified the bylaws in regards to the board structure.</p> <p>Collette Sorgel, Paul Ehrfurth, Sandy Bishop and Lisa Sage will meet to discuss and complete the current WEDC grant paperwork. Meeting to be set up next week.</p> <p>There was additional conversation regarding adding the rest of the ED representatives to the BOD.</p> <p>Motion to charge the Executive Committee to look into the bylaws and structure of the organization and then make recommendations [which may include amendment to said bylaws] to the Board of Directors at the next full BOD meeting (Ken Maule), seconded (Paul Ehrfurth), all in favor, motion carried.</p>	<p>Motion Carried</p> <p>Motion Carried</p> <p>Motion Carried</p> <p>Motion Carried</p>
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Adjourn	<i>Motion to adjourn (Ron Skallerud), seconded (Nicole Justa), all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.</i>	Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM
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Next meeting: The BOD meeting schedule will be decided upon at a later date.