

Florence County Economic Development COMMISSION/ RLF LOAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MISSION: EDC will retain, expand and recruit a diversified business population which provides broad and varied job opportunities while safeguarding the area's natural surroundings.

Date: December 7th, 2015

Time: Monday, 4:30 pm, 2nd Floor Jury Room – Courthouse

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman G. Steber. Commission members G. Steber, T. Bomberg, E. Wenger, and A. Reubens from the State Bank of Florence (taking D. Stohl position) were present along with FCEDC Director, W. Gehlhoff. S. McLain was absent. RLF Loan Committee Members T. Bomberg, B. Dallagrana and G. Steber were present. Jared, Doug and Fay Whisler were also in attendance.

2. Approve agenda

An agenda was approved on a motion by E. Wenger, T. Bomberg 2nd, motion carried.

3. Approve minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by T. Bomberg, E. Wenger 2nd, motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action RLF Loan Application Review

The Whisler's were present to discuss their loan application and business plan to purchase Florence Sport and Bait. After discussion and review of documents, a motion was made by T. Bomberg, E. Wenger 2nd to approve a \$21,500 loan at 4% interest for a 12-year term contingent on all required paperwork and County approval. Motion carried.

5. Discussion/Action on Land Sale final document

Two minor changes were made to the Offer to Purchase document for industrial park lots 10 & 11. On a motion by T. Bomber, E. Wenger 2nd, Chairman G. Steber will sign the document on behalf of the Commission. Motion carried.

6. Discussion/Action on Bill list approval

On a motion by E. Wenger, T. Bomberg 2nd, the bill list was approved. Motion carried.

7. Discussion/Action ED Commission checking account

On a motion by T. Bomberg, E. Wenger 2nd the Commission will keep a separate checking account. Motion carried.

8. Discussion/Action on 2013/2014 corrected Schenk Audit

With the "monies returned to state" items deleted, the corrected Schenk Audit was approved on a motion by E. Wenger, A. Reubens 2nd. Motion Carried

9. Discussion/Action on ED Commission 2016 budget

On a motion by E. Wenger, T. Bomberg 2nd, the final 2016 Commission budget was approved. Motion carried.

10. Update on EDC projects: The attached EDC Project Updates were reviewed.

11. Board member concerns: T. Bomberg mentioned the Ken Laird sign at entrance to industrial park fell down. Members will discuss replacing worn out industrial park signs at the next meeting.

12. Adjournment: On a motion by E. Wenger, A. Reubens 2nd, meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gehlhoff – FCEDC Director

EDC Project Update December 7th, 2015

- **RLF Loan Program**
 - 13 RLF loans in Fence, Florence, Tipler, Long Lake. Balance to loan out \$201,000. One loan not current.
 - Sat through mandatory DOA training for next round of ever more cumbersome federal HUD reporting.
- **Forest Products Industry Support**
 - Received \$1,500 John Force Forestry Education grant to develop Forest Industry Day for FHS students (5th-12th grades) to get hands on understanding of the industry equipment, process and careers.
 - Sustainable Forestry Conference 4/21/16 Steering committee developing agenda ideas and speakers.
 - Grant for regional Wood Products marketing project has been reinstated by USFS from fire funds.
- **Business Development and Entrepreneur Support**
 - Hosted Hotel Investment Opportunity meeting 10/14/15. 9 people attended. Others requested study and proforma by email. Two parties have some interest, but not on fast track.
 - Working with DCH on pharmacy located in Florence Medical Clinic. TelePharm helping find business.
 - Helped 4 entrepreneurs locate business resources, regulatory info, site options and loan options.
 - Helping Assisted Living facility developer with survey monkey to gauge demand/interest for rooms
 - Submitted application for \$10,000 Catholic Diocese Economic Development Technical Assistance grant to do feasibility study and business plan for virtual business incubator to market locally made products.
 - Sent out Florence Township broadband survey and business surveys to whole county. Results will be reviewed to determine possible next steps with providers to consider pursuing a grant.
- **Florence High School/Public Fab Lab**
 - Working with 6 Fab Lab Industry Advisory businesses to determine skill sets needed, materials they can donate, any projects they'd like to propose, and scheduling tours of their businesses.
 - Planned Fab Lab Grand Opening and Open House event with FCSD Superintendant. Next Industry Advisory meeting is 12/15/15 from 1pm-3pm. Lab is open to public on Wednesday evenings.
 - Assisted teachers with \$1,000 WPS Innovative Educator grant appl. for color printer/scanner/copier.
- **TIF District (TID)**
 - This will be first year with increment (+11%) so working through details with County staff as needed.
- **Tourism and Website Projects**
 - Testified at Assembly bill (11/17) and Senate bill (12/8) public hearings to reinstate \$27,000 WI-DNR funding for their share of the employee cost for public information desk at visitor center.
 - Writing and taping monthly radio ads re events/attractions in Florence County for 2 radio stations.
 - Helped with PR for new Keyes Peak "Off the Chains" Disc Golf tournament. 24 teams from out of the area participated, so it drew in new folks who raved about the Keyes Peak Recreation area and facilities.
 - Wrote Chamber November newsletter and did PR for Christmas in Florence 12/5. 500 people attended.
- **Northwoods Rail Transit Commission (NRTC)**
 - Strategy work for draft letter to CN CEO requesting a meeting to get answers on IF we provide Actionable Shipper Data, WILL they consider leasing light density lines to short line rail companies.
 - Will pursue grants to fund data work, but will not submit until we have an answer from CN.
 - Delta and Marquette Counties joined so 22 counties strong with both states pushing for log car monies.
 - 2nd TIGER grant unsuccessful due to 'pending' match monies from state and no on ground infrastructure
- **Other Projects**
 - Time spent on EDC as county position and department details ie budget, job description, etc.