

Florence County Economic Development RLF COMMITTEE/ED COMMISSION 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: May 17th, 2017

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

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order by chairman, G. Steber. Commissioners G. Steber, T. Bomberg, B. Dallagrana and A. Reubens were present. E. Wenger was excused. S. McLain was absent. Director W. Gehlhoff was also present.

2. Approve agenda

On a motion by T. Bomberg, A. Reubens 2nd, the agenda was approved. Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes

On a motion by T. Bomberg, A. Reubens 2nd, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action on RLF Loan Applications(s) Review

- a. RLF loan #2017-62 was reviewed. Brian Huth has experience operating Lake Hilbert Campground. There were questions about the operating agreement and ownership structure. Director will get copies of these documents to clarify. On a motion by B. Dallagrana, A. Reubens 2nd a loan for \$50,000 at 4% interest for a 12-year term was approved contingent on getting a mortgage on real estate other than subject premise and a copy of the land contract and bill of sale with list of personal property. Motion carried.

5. Discussion/Action on RLF Program Update – all loans are current except for Tipler Bar & Grill.

6. Discussion/Action on ED Commission Activities – continue to review and approve loans and manage/market Commission owned lands.

7. Update on Economic Development Projects - The attached project update was reviewed.

8. Board member concerns - none

9. Adjournment

On a motion by T. Bomberg, B. Dallagran 2nd, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gehlhoff – FCEDC Director

EDC Project Update May 17th, 2017

- **RLF Loan Program**
 - 14 loans in Fence, Florence, Tipler, Long Lake. Tipler B&G default. All other loans current.
 - Completed paperwork/documentation for semi-annual DOA report due 5/15/17.
 - One loan application expected back this spring. Uncommitted balance \$69,000.
- **Forest Products Industry Support**
 - 13th Annual Sustainable Forestry Conference on 4/20/2017 was very well received. 150+ in attendance.
 - Attended “Tools to Retain and Grow Your Forest Industry Companies” workshop on 1/9/16 at NTC.
 - Meeting with Florence Hardwoods in May to discuss new market ideas from this workshop and SFC.
 - FHS teacher attending June 5-day Intro to Forest Products Industry at NTC (Grow North paying tuition).
 - Grow North funding Wood is Good marketing piece and forest industry sign at Rhinelander airport
- **Business Development and Entrepreneur Support**
 - Assisted Living project still seeking financing. Current bank situation is looking more promising.
 - Working with C. Seaman and L. Neuens on PSC State Broadband grant application including attending numerous meetings to secure match funding and communications with 3 possible broadband providers.
 - Was a panel member on a Saturday Broadband event with Senator Johnson in Eagle River: new contacts.
 - Assisted Florence Prescription Services with new ideas and contacts to further market their business.
 - Assisted Mean Jean Food Company from Aurora Kitchen Incubator with successful microloan application
- **Florence High School/Public Fab Lab**
 - Meetings with school to plan 2nd FHS Tech Fair with industry and public for 5/10/17 12:30-3:30 as part of the efforts to grow our local technically skilled workforce pool and retain more students in the area.
 - The Lt. Governor attended as well as 8 area employers, NWTC brought the Electro Mechanical trailer, IT and medical equipment and the Ponce Simulator was on site thanks to the Streu family and GLTPA.
 - 2nd WEDC \$25,000 Fab Lab grant was awarded on 4/26/17 and UW-Stout is helping with K-12 curriculum
 - Wed. Fab Lab public use has grown. Contacting users to assess needs for entrepreneurial businesses.
- **TIF District (TID)**
 - Worked with J. Bestor on Fees for Services Agreement to charge TID for yearly admin as revenue for ED.
- **Tourism and Website Projects**
 - Designed 2 sided Florence County Attraction flyer. Mailed to 2600 seasonal property owners & realtors
 - Hosted Dept. of Tourism Regional Specialist for Tourism Promotion meeting with business and community members. Learned more ways to use Travel Wisconsin resources and ideas from attendees.
 - Manned booth at Canoeopia with P. Smith and L. Moore promoting our paddling and outdoor assets.
 - Wrote and recorded monthly radio ads for Keyes Peak Ski Hill, winter events, recreation and disc golf.
 - Ongoing Facebook and website postings, news releases, event details and content updates.
- **Northwoods Rail Transit Commission (NRTC)**
 - Working with Senator Baldwin, Wis-DOT and Surface Transportation Board to address CN embargo.
- **Other Projects**
 - Chamber of Commerce Winterfest promotion and new Live Here signs for Florence and Aurora.
 - Numerous meetings with J. Bestor and D. Liebergen on details of accounts and processes for ED/RLF.