



Leslie Messer, Executive Director

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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes

March 1st, 2023

Pella Lutheran Church

Leif Anderson brought the meeting to order at 6:43 AM. Board members present were: Leif Anderson, Jason Brothen, Jen Doty-zoom, Paula Eberling, Dave Garland, Travis Gerten, Chip Gifford, Shane Gorder, Michele Herres, Jamie Malsam, Randy Olson, Vanessa Pooch, Gary Schoepp, Alan Seigfreid, Cami Skinner-zoom, Morgan Taylor, and Leslie Messer, zoom. Members absent were; Craig Averett, Bill Henderson, Walt McNutt, Rick Norby, Mark Rehbein, and Blaine Rogers.

Approval of Minutes: Jason motioned to approve the minutes. Randy seconded. Approved.

Financial Reports: Leslie presented the financials for the year to date. She explained in detail for the new directors. Gary moved to approve the financials. Jason seconded. Approved.

Welcome to new board directors: Leif welcomed the new directors to the REDC board as 1-year directors: Paula Eberling, Travis Gerten, Michele Herres, and Jamie Malsam. Everyone introduced themselves to the new directors.

Monthly happenings:

- I have participated in a couple planning meetings of the LMT Confluence to be held in May
- I sold tickets for Kiwanis at middle school basketball games
- I prepared new board member orientation packets
- I wrote a letter of support for Sidney Parks for Quilling's Park restroom
- I met with all four new directors and conducted orientation with them. (Travis, Paula, Jamie, Michele)
- I participated in planning sessions for the LMT Flagship class that will be held in Miles City in March
- I filed the February lobbyist reports with Commissioner of Political Practices
- I prepared information to participate in a roundtable discussion with Governor Gianforte with growers and community leaders
- I emailed the directors who needed to sign the confidentiality agreement
- Our income tax return 990 was filed on Friday, Feb 10
- I attended the LYIP annual meeting on 2/17

Office updates: Leslie reported that she has settled into the new office spaces very well. Things are fully operational, and online. Big Sky Siding would like the REDC traffic to enter the building from the two exits farthest away from their office.

Sidney Sugars closure and employee meeting: Our office fielded many, many calls about the closure of the sugar processing facility from newspapers, television and radio stations. I reported information that I have attained from Dave, and focused mainly on the loss of jobs and impacts to the employees' families.

On 2/23, I jointly conducted an employee meeting with Steve Olson from the Sidney Job Service. There were 100 employees in attendance. We were able to bring USDA, EDA, MT Dept of Labor, MSU Extension, Miles and Dawson Community Colleges, and MT Manufacturing Extension Center to discuss resources that can and will be available to them.

Marketing Proposals: Leif stated RED received two marketing proposals for our new marketing plan and strategy. The Executive Board thoroughly went through the two and overall decided that they preferred the proposal from Rebel River Creative. Leif explained that the time is now to focus on this and the executive committee recommends entering into a contract with RRC and beginning as soon as possible. Leif asked for discussion. Many reported agreement to move ahead. Jason moved to enter a contract with RRC, and Chip seconded. Approved unanimously.

County report: Shane is keeping an eye on legislation affecting the county. He has been traveling to Helena throughout February. One interesting bill was one that pertained to measuring and assessing gold in the counties. There is also an important bill regarding how the oil and natural gas taxes are distributed. Each county has its own formula. The bill has been cancelled twice, so Shane will watch closely and leave immediately when it comes up again. The county will oppose HB 485.

City report: Nothing

Open discussion:

- Alan reported on the progress of the airport terminal development. Things are moving right along.

Adjourned at 8:00 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 5th, 2023

Next Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 29th, 2023