



Leslie Messer, Executive Director
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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes

April 5th, 2023

Pella Lutheran Church

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

Approval of Minutes: Gary moved to approve the minutes. Craig seconded. Approved.

Financial Reports: Leslie presented the financials for the month. The only out of the ordinary expenditure was for the first payment to the marketing firm. A discussion about the deliverables commenced. A question was asked as to the total price for the marketing strategy and plan. An updated logo from the company will be sent for review. Michele moved to approve the financials; Mark seconded. Approved.

Welcome to the new Project Assistant: Leslie introduced Amelia Messer as the new part-time assistant. Leslie stated that the job opening had been posted since January with no bites. Amelia's hours at her previous job were cut to 5 hours per week. Leslie sought guidance from each executive board director seeking their opinion of Amelia applying for the Project Assistant position, part time. All directors agreed that she should apply. To ensure that the code of ethics was upheld, Leslie recused herself from the hiring process, and the president and vice president conducted the interview. Leif Anderson and Jason Brothen hired Amelia based on her 6 years of admin experience, her knowledge, and her energy. They also set her wages. Amelia was introduced to all the board members and is appreciative of the opportunity.

Monthly happenings:

- Leslie connected with Governor's, Testers, Daines, and Rosendales' offices regarding Sidney Sugars
- Leslie submitted the 3/15 lobbyist report in a timely manner.
- Leslie published welcome notices for our new board directors on Face Book.
- Leslie wrote an article for the Sidney Herald and met with the Roundup for an article.

Mon-Dak API: API reached out to Gary and Leslie asking for a presentation from REDC. Randy Iversen suggested that we ask for financial support from API. A presentation was given on 3/21, and they seemed happy with what they learned. Hopefully they will reach out this month.

Leadership MT: LMT asked Leslie to teach Gracious Space to the Flagship Class, so she went to Miles City and taught a presentation. In May, the alumnae of LMT will be meeting in Sidney to see the area and attend the Confluence. Leslie and Cami will pass along additional information soon.

RLF pulse check: Gary reported that 2 years ago, in order to improve REDC's financials, the Executive Committee agreed to increase the admin percentage of the interest only for 2 years. That time has passed, so it was brought up and discussed again. The Executive Committee recommended allowing the additional percentage of interest to remain for another 2 years. Craig moved to retain the increased percentage for another 2 years. Alan seconded. Approved.

Sidney Sugars closure update: Dave updated the board on how things are proceeding with the plant. Some workers are still working while others are taking their vacation, etc., until used up. On the factory side, sugar will be sent out and some molasses will be brought in to be stored because other facilities have no room. Also, programs are in place to help workers with transition to new opportunities.

County report: Nothing

City report: Nothing

Open discussion:

- Alan reported on the progress of the airport terminal development. Construction has been completed ahead of schedule.
- Vanessa heard of a meeting held in Fairview with area growers where the sugar can be processed into ethanol. Will keep ears open to see if that is a possibility for a plant.
- Per the Richland County Commissioners suggestion, Robert Struckman, MT area representative of AFL-CIO was given the opportunity to speak to the board. Robert expressed an interest in Sidney Sugars, the union employees, and building collaborations in NE MT. Robert will remain in contact with the REDC office.

Adjourned at 8:00 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023

Next Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 26th, 2023