



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

Full Board Meeting Minutes

May 3rd, 2023

Pella Lutheran Church

Leif Anderson brought the meeting to order at 6:43 AM. Board members present were: Leif Anderson, Craig Averett, Dave Garland, Travis Gerten, Chip Gifford, Michele Herres (zoom), Jamie Malsam (zoom), Walt McNutt, 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; Jen Doty, Paula Eberling, Shane Gorder, and Bill Henderson.

Leif opened the meeting and welcomed Kali to the board as the City representative.

Approval of Minutes: Randy moved to approve the minutes. Travis seconded. Approved.

Financial Reports: Leslie presented the financials for the month. She explained about Rebel River project was moving forward nicely and the second payment was sent. Rebel River will continue to communicate moving forward. Mark moved to approve the financials; Blaine seconded. Approved.

Monthly happenings:

- Training new employee-Leslie reported that she's been training Amelia, introducing her to members, etc., and that Amelia is catching on quick to social media, Quick Books, and the website.
- Delivered plaques- Leslie and Amelia delivered plaques to members.
- Articles for Herald and Roundup- Leslie wrote articles for both the Roundup and the Sidney Herald about new the new Project Assistant and other activities.
- Planning for the Leadership MT Confluence in Sidney- Leslie reported that she and other area LMT alumni have been working on planning this conference in early May. Leslie referred to the conference agenda included in the packets.
- Conducted interview with PBS from Billings- Following the City Council meeting the Billings PBS asked Leslie for an interview on REDC's efforts regarding Sidney Sugar's closure.

County Report: County is in the process of setting wages for all county employees, and there is continued work on the fairgrounds. They are also watching the legislature for bills that will affect the County.

City Report: The city has water projects underway which take a lot of time. In the future, they are also looking at empty buildings in downtown Sidney which could affect city planning.

Open discussion:

- Walt reported that the airport renovations are coming along and are almost finished. Possibly updated runways soon; since it's been quite a while since done. They are looking into painting lines themselves

because FAA will not help pay for it. They are looking into having air shows and there will be an open house on July 20th. Overall, everything is coming along nicely.

- Sidney Sugars is down to about 50 employees with little under half of products to ship left. There are also by-products that need to be sent out and the railway will be used for quite a bit of that. They have also helped employees tremendously to find future jobs elsewhere.
- Guest speaker Steve Olson-Sidney Job Service: Leslie introduced Steve to the REDC board, and Steve gave an educational and informational overview of the services that our local Sidney Job Service has and can do. The board appreciated the opportunity to hear updates on the Job Service.

Adjourned at 8:00 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 7th, 2023

Next Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 31st, 2023