



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RICHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP February 7, 2024

The full board meeting of directors of Richland Economic Development Corp was held at Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT on February 7, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 a.m., MST, by President Brothen.

Roll Call:

The following members were present:

Table with 3 columns of names: Leif Anderson, Dave Garland, Shane Gorder, Vanness Pooch, Gary Schoepp, Craig Averett, Travis Gerten, Michele Herres (Zoom), Mark Rehbein, Alan Seigfreid, Jason Brothen, Chip Gifford, Jamie Malsam, Blaine Rogers, Morgan Taylor

Absent:

Table with 3 columns of names: Paula Eberling, Walt McNutt, Kali Godfrey, Randy Olson, Bill Henderson

Also present was Executive Director Leslie Messer, and Project Assistant Amelia Messer.

Meeting Agenda:

The agenda was sent to all directors and presented for approval. There were no changes to the agenda and a motion was made to accept as presented, seconded, unanimously carried.

Consideration of Minutes:

Minutes from the December 6, 2023, full board meeting were included in the packet sent before the meeting. President Brothen asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented in the board packet. A motion was made by Mark to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vanessa, unanimously carried.

Annual Director Commitments:

Messer passed confidentiality and whistle blower policies to the board and had them signed and returned to her for the files.

Monthly Activities:

Messer gave 990 tax return into to CHMS. She also did social media posts and lobbyist reports. Messer went over the financial report; Craig made a motion to approve the financials, Blaine seconded the motion. Approved.

MIT Project

Westmoreland Coal:

Messer reported on the Magna International Trading (MIT) call she participated in with other community and area leaders. MIT is evaluating coal processing and waste to energy plant on the MDU generating plant property. MIT would like to use the coal resource in Savage to produce a diesel product and have other byproducts like water, electricity, and fertilizer to name a few.

Messer did follow up with the company officials to find out if Sidney was still being considered. MIT was unsure of the coal assets and if they would have access. Messer reached out to Westmoreland Coal to find out the future of the Savage



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February 7, 2024**

mine and if they would be open to working with a company if there was an avenue. Westmoreland was open to the idea and Messer made the connection with MIT. This project is still in the works and more to come as information and ideas materialize.

Coal Board Grant
Savage School Board:

Messer completed an application to the Montana Coal Board for \$45,000. She presented the project in Billings on December 14 and was awarded the full grant request.

The Savage School was contacted by the chairman of the Coal Board and told to utilize Messer for more funding opportunities. Messer made a presentation to the Savage School Board on January 11th. She shared with them the funding opportunities, application process, and how the Coal Board is funded. Messer will work with Savage School once they have qualifying projects.

EDA & Disaster Funds:

Messer is working with Aaron Pratt (EDA) to apply for disaster supplemental funding. Pratt will review the draft Messer produced and is hopeful that the application for \$100,000 will be ready for submission this month.

Joint Annual Meeting:

Brothen asked the opinions of the board on the recent joint annual meeting with the Sidney Chamber of Commerce. Blaine mentioned that the event was rather Chamber heavy on their side and wished REDC was involved more. The executive board looked positive at the meeting. It was agreed the event was a success and it was nice to have both organizations working together. There are little details that can be worked out in the future. It was suggested that Messer relay to the Chamber that REDC would like to have further discussion on continuing this event in the future.

City Report:

No City Report

County Report:

Shane Reported that next Monday a letter will be sent about an increase in taxes. The tax force is looking positive. 49 Counties challenged the state and the result from the Supreme Court is to increase. _____ needed a lawyer to help increase water for grants and need a well drilled. North Dakota had some red tape that popped up so its possible to go either way. The two ways to get water are to go across river or from North Dakota.

Open Discussion:

Brothen asked if anyone had other topics to discuss. Alan shared that the budget for the airport is looking good because of mild winter. They are looking at getting another snow machine to help clear runways. Also looking at building a long runway this summer.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
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February 27, 2024**

Future Meetings: Next full board meeting will be March 6, 2024.
Next executive board meeting will be February 27, 2024

Adjournment: With no further business, Brothen adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.



Jason A. Brothen, President



Dave Garland, Secretary

