

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
RICHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP

October 2, 2024

The full board meeting of directors of Richland Economic Development Corp was held at Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT on October 2, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 a.m., MST, by Vice President, Morgan Taylor.

Roll Call:

The following members were present:

Craig Averett	Dave Garland	Travis Gerten
Chip Gifford	Michele Herres	Jami Malsam
Walt McNutt	Vanessa Pooch	Mark Rehbein
Blaine Rogers	Gary Schoepp	Alan Seigfreid
Morgan Taylor		

Absent:

Leif Anderson	Jason Brothen	Paula Eberling
Kali Godfrey	Shane Gorder	Bill Henderson
Randy Olson		

Also present were 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 Craig moved to accept the agenda as presented, Mark seconded, unanimously carried.

Consideration of Minutes:

Minutes from September 5, 2024, full board meeting minutes was included in the packet and sent before the meeting. Taylor asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mark moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Blaine, unanimously carried.

Consideration of
Financial reports

Messer went over the financial reports; Blaine moved to approve the financials; Michele seconded the motion. Approved.

Monthly Activities:

Messer had the privilege to speak with the following members regarding how their businesses are faring, and to update them on REDC's projects and activities: Justin Pearson, BNSF, Paul Hopfauf, MDU, and Brooklyn McGarry, Sidney Job Service. Also, during the process of preparing to receive the funding from the EDA, Stockman Bank noted that our full legal name isn't on our accounts. For accuracy, they updated all the accounts with the legal name, updated directors and signers.

Nominating report:

Messer has contacted all 3-year term directors regarding their intentions for continuing: Randy O, yes, Vanessa, no, Alan, yes, and Morgan yes. For 1-year terms: Paula, yes, Travis, yes, Michele, yes, and Jamie, yes. **Randy would like to step down from the EB to give others the experience. ** Travis G and Jamie M stated that they would be interested in EB. Taylor asked for a motion to include Randy O, Alan S, Morgan T, and Travis G to be placed on the ballot for 3-year directors.

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- Proposed budget for 2025: Messer presented the 2025 budget, as approved by the Executive Board. Leslie went over the past three years' operations, and justification for the proposed budget. Leslie gave additional information as needed. Gary moved to accept the 2025 budget; Travis seconded; unanimously approved.
- Richland County Coal Grant Update: Messer connected with the Dept of Commerce & coal board to determine the pathway to ask for drawdowns for this economic diversification strategy and comprehensive economic strategy grant. She will prepare these documents and get signatures from the county to proceed.
- Request for Proposals: As part of the RC Economic Diversification Strategy and Comprehensive Strategy, REDC sent out the request for proposals to engineering firms across the state. The deadline was 5:00 PM on Sept 30, 2024. We received 3 proposals.
- Savage School Coal Board Application: Messer traveled to Billings to make the presentation on behalf of Savage School for building repairs. Superintendent Martha Potter was in attendance as well. They were thrilled to be awarded the full \$281,000. In addition, Messer was reimbursed by Savage School for all expenses that she incurred: hours, mileage, and hotel expenses.
- Sidney Sugar Update: Director Paul Green contacted Leslie to see if she had connection with the new owner of the plant. Director Green was curious mainly because of the rail spur. Green wondered if the new owner might be interested in potentials for the property. Leslie contacted Mr. Hansen to determine his willingness to learn more about the state's opportunities. He stated that he would be interested.
- MEDA Conference: Both Leslie and Amelia went to Havre to participate in the fall conference of MEDA. Leslie introduced Amelia to several connections that she's made over the years. They were educated on the history of Havre and the latest economic projects there.
- City Report: No Report
- County Report: Shane sent a report through Leslie: The Commissioners are working with Savage Fire Dept and the architects. The main discussion is determining the right size of the new fire department. A new housing initiative from the state is being considered by Richland County.
- Open Discussion: None

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Future Meetings: Next full board meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2024
Next executive board meeting: Monday, October 28, 2024

Adjournment: With no further business, Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:15 AM.



Jason Brothen, President



Dave Garland, Secretary