

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
March 20, 2014
7:00 p.m. TCEDC Office - Hillsboro

Board of Directors present: Deb Kyлло, Gary Nysveen, Phil Murphy, Jay Henrickson, Tracy Bjerke, Tom Eblen, and Scott Hovde. Also present: UAS Sector Senior Manager, Terry Sando, Executive Director, Melissa Beach, Project Coordinator, Jessica Spaeth, Hillsboro Banner Reporter, Cole Short, and Trail County Tribune Reporter, Jim Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Hovde.

Introductions of board members and guests.

Secretary's Report

Motion by Nysveen to accept February 20, 2014 minutes, seconded by Kyлло. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Henrickson moved to accept February 20, 2014 treasurer's report, seconded by Kyлло. Motion carried.

Motion by Henrickson to approve payment of checks as submitted, Eblen seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Report

Beach presented the monthly executive report as attached.

Unfinished Business

Discussion was held on natural gas. Beach, Henrickson, and Murphy met with Xcel Energy representatives on March 14, 2014. The discussion included that the origin of the gas line would come from the Minnesota side which runs along Hwy 75, and would likely cross near Caledonia, North Dakota. The cost benefit analysis would be tough. Bringing natural gas to Trail County will take a collaborative effort with a large user. The conversation is ongoing.

Discussion was held on UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems). Sando gave a presentation and discussed the possibility of working with the ND UAS Test Site and other UAS opportunities. Approximately 80% of UAS would be used in agriculture.

Discussion was held on TCEDC's Strategic Plan. Beach updated the plan and suggested the board review Goal 1 for next meeting.

Discussion regarding board appointment comparison with TCEDC by-laws and state statute. Beach will discuss with Stuart Larson.

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New Business

Bjerke explained what Cummings Ag Inc. is and how he and Beach secured an APUC grant.

Discussion regarding marketing grant was held. When TCEDC hears from Commerce, the marketing committee will meet.

Bjerke questioned feasibility of who pays for infrastructure for local companies. Beach will research other options for private companies.

Tourism was discussed. TCEDC will include more tourism items on website.

Discussion involving a housing study was held. North Dakota Housing Finance has grants available to have a housing study done for the county. Beach will do more research for specifics.

Community Updates

Kyllo - Epic Nutrition is now open from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Nysveen - Hillsboro Days will be the third weekend in June, HBA Pancake Appreciation Breakfast will be held on April 12. Businesses are talking about the shortage of train cars for agricultural use and how it is affecting the county.

Henrickson - Mayville State University hired a director for nursing program. Construction projects are continuing to move forward.

Bjerke - Companies are having difficulties recruiting fabricators and welders

Eblen - Hoping for no flood this spring.

Hovde - Norsemen Archers are working on their building and awaiting word on their grant.

Phipps - Sent email message that Friday, March 21, will be the first Relay for Life Fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Officer (printed name & office) Signature Date

Recording Secretary (printed name) Signature Date