

Minutes of Meeting
Traill County Economic Development Commission
August 15, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
TCEDC Conference Room – Hillsboro, N.D.

Present: Board members: Ben Hershey, Gary Nysveen, Paul Geray, Roxanne Phipps, Jami Hovet, Scott Hovde. Also present: Jim Murphy – Executive Director, Alyssa Short – Project Coordinator, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner and Bryce Haugen – Traill County Tribune.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chairman Hershey. Hovde joined the meeting by phone.

Additions to Agenda

None

Secretary's Report

Geray noted a typo in the July meeting minutes. Nysveen moved to accept the July 18, 2019 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Hovet. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted by A. Short that she and Murphy attended a TValue training session so they could update Quickbooks with the interest due on the various loans – and provide better interest reporting to clients for tax purposes. She also said the annual audit is scheduled for next week. Hovet had a question on the higher-than-usual balance of the PIM marketing account; A. Short explained this is what has been paid out on the Partners in Marketing grant and a large chunk will be reimbursed when the final grant report is complete.

Geray moved to accept the July 2019 treasurer's report, seconded by Phipps. Motion carried.

The August checks included a \$50 check to rent the Mayville VFW for the upcoming Traill Leaders' Summit. Hovet moved to approve payment of checks as submitted, Nysveen seconded. Motion carried.

Natural Gas Update

Murphy attended a meeting with Hillsboro city leaders, Xcel and American Crystal and said Xcel could be interested in bringing natural gas to Traill County if it's deemed feasible. More interest is good news, but Murphy isn't sure how the situation will play out. Nysveen, who also attended the meeting, said Xcel would be using the same source (Viking Pipeline by Beltrami) that Dakota Natural Gas is looking at. Dakota Natural Gas already is sending contracts to various businesses. Murphy said this is momentum and the project is proceeding in the right direction.

Murphy also said he's doing his best to stay in touch with the key contacts on the project to make sure something works. Hovet mentioned that Mayville State had received a contract



to hopefully be returned by the end of the month, and the university is working with a company to help with the various conversion calculations. The project would require an initial investment from MSU, but the calculations also are showing that MSU could have substantial usage even without switching fully to natural gas. MSU also has had two meetings with Xcel.

Hovde left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

Murphy gave an update on 1881 Extraction Co., an oil extraction and distillation facility opening in Hillsboro. TCEDC has been working with 1881, Lake Agassiz Regional Council and a local lender on putting together the overall financing package. The company's primaries include Joe and Becca Dufner and Pat Muller, who are making a significant investment. The company plans to create 10 to 14 jobs to start with and hopes to be working at full capacity by Nov. 1.

The City of Hillsboro also is looking at partnering with F5, an organization that works with transitioning former felons back into the workforce, to bring additional workers to the area. Murphy attended a conference call with city officials and the founder of F5 regarding this potential partnership.

The second "Come Home to Trail" video debuted. Murphy spoke with Midco about possibly airing some of the videos, which also resulted in Midco pledging \$250 annually to Trail United Group.

Murphy presented at the quarterly APUC meeting in Medora last month on behalf of Total Ag Industries, which received a \$26,250 prototype grant for a new type of hemp harvesting equipment. TCEDC will be the fiscal agent for the grant and will receive \$1,250 of the grant as payment.

The ambulance services in Trail County are receiving significantly less funding this year than in the past, and Murphy has been checking with the various ambulance directors to see if this is on their radar. As a taxpayer-funded entity, TCEDC is fairly limited in its ability to help raise the mill levy for another entity, but Murphy wanted to ensure the awareness is there that this is a big deal for everyone in the county; accessibility to health care is very important.

Hillsboro is interested in working with the city of Cavalier on NDSU Extension's Community Impressions program. A. Short volunteered to participate. Other upcoming activities include the Sept. 4 Lunch & Learn on workforce recruitment and retention, a part-time job fair at Mayville State, Dr. Van Horn's inauguration as Mayville State's president and a variety of other meetings across the county.

Housing update – Riverwalk

Housing projects are proceeding in Hillsboro, Mayville and Hatton. Hillsboro's west-side housing project has been dubbed Riverwalk. Nysveen said the timeline of the project was moved up to next spring and likely will include multi-family housing.

Survey results update

As of the date of the meeting, the Community Pulse survey had netted 295 responses. Murphy was hoping for 320, which is within the range of statistical significance, by Aug. 30. The TCEDC office plans to generate a report for each community and give board members and other key officials access to the results dashboard. Murphy said there are interesting ideas being offered up in the survey comments, including some quick wins for the various cities.

Sundae Brew

Hershey noted that the Sundae Brew loan offer has officially expired.

Lunch & Learn

The workforce recruitment and retention Lunch & Learn is set for Sept. 4 at Mayville State. Hershey noted this is a huge thing for the county because workforce issues are very pressing for area employers. Murphy asked board members to share the Facebook post to help spread the word.

Acknowledgement of statement made by Hillsboro City Commission president regarding performance/communication of TCEDC

Hershey noted that the press had reported on a comment made by the Hillsboro City Commission president during a recent meeting regarding communication between the city, Hillsboro EDC and TCEDC. Murphy said he was unsure what prompted the comment, but he welcomes any feedback regarding ways in which TCEDC could improve. Hershey said he feels Murphy is very communicative and goes out of his way to make sure the best interests of the county are the office's top priority. Hershey felt maybe the comment was said in frustration or didn't come across as intended; in any case, he feels Murphy has done a very good job and he welcomes any additional comments or questions.

Community updates

Nysveen – The City of Hillsboro has a second pool forum scheduled next week, which hopefully will have more information about costs and numbers. Hillsboro EDC and the Hillsboro City Commission had a joint meeting moderated by Murphy. Both sides expressed their opinions but Murphy kept everything under control. The MayPort Community Club is planning both for this year's Winterfest and next year's Summerfest. Nysveen is more than willing to give up his tractor pull responsibilities if there are any takers. School starts next week. Football practice recently kicked off with 52 students participating. A new house is being built in Hillsboro on a Renaissance Zone property. The house, which already has been sold, is being constructed by KP Builders.

Geray – Beet prepile harvest started today. Hershey noted that KRJB and Halstad Telephone will be broadcasting H-CV games this year and Nysveen said HHS alum Brady Siebels had been hired as a broadcaster.

Phipps – The Hatton Eielson School ribbon-cutting ceremony is slated for Monday, Aug. 19, with school starting Aug. 21. Rain is hampering work on the ongoing street project.

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Hovet – Athletes for the two fall sports have reported back to campus. Football numbers are down, likely due to a change of head coach, which also impacts the number of students living on campus. Faculty returns to campus next week, students move in Aug. 24 and classes start Aug. 26. The MSU State of the University address is Aug. 21, with President Van Horn's inauguration kicking off Farmers Bowl weekend on Sept. 13. The Comet Athletic Club is sponsoring a gun raffle.

Hershey – Central Valley starts school Wednesday. There is a home for sale in Buxton – the first in a while. A member of the Buxton City Council is the homeowner, so Hershey isn't sure what happens when the councilman moves. This also is the councilman who has been pushing hard for a two-phase water and street project in Buxton. The Barn & Grill is still for sale. Hershey requested more specific contractor information on the website for those looking for various home improvement projects and asked if there was news on the Finley Motors purchase of Mayville's Shopko building. Murphy said it looks like the deal is done and Finley Motors has started work on the building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Officer (printed name & office)	Signature	Date
Recording Secretary (printed name)	Signature	Date