

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
November 18, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
TCEDC Conference Room, Hillsboro, N.D., and Zoom conference call

Present: Gary Nysveen, Judd Wilson, Kurt Elliott, Scott Hovde, Sarah Lovas, Ben Hershey, David Knudsvig, Roxanne Phipps, Dr. Brian Van Horn. Also attending: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Project Coordinator, Marshall Erickson – potential incoming Board member, Paul Geray – Hillsboro City Commissioner, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner and Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Nysveen.

Introductions:

- Marshall Erickson – Erickson works at Goose River Bank and is interested in joining the Board because Hovde, the Board’s only banker, is not seeking another term. Erickson would fill an at-large position as a finance professional, but not Hovde’s Portland position because Erickson is a resident of Clifford.
- Paul Geray – Newly elected Hillsboro city commissioner and past TCEDC board member.

Agenda additions

None

Secretary’s report

Wilson moved to accept the October 21, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Hershey. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report/approve checks

Short said TCEDC has received more than its budgeted amount of tax revenue for the year. The last outstanding 2020 mini-grant was paid and there are four left on the books for 2021 at this time. Lovas moved to approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Hershey. Motion carried.

Short noted that the office ordered a duplicate Governor’s Choice award for Dakota Natural Gas to display in its offices. Lovas moved to approve checks, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried.

Executive Director’s report

Murphy said he and Short spent a lot of time with Degelman Industries, looking into various incentives and programs through the state and keeping tabs on the tax incentive requests with the city of Hillsboro. They also talked to a few interested businesses about the primary sector training grants that were approved last month. Child care is going to continue to be an issue. Centers have been closed intermittently due to COVID. Murphy urged Board members to keep their eyes and ears open for solutions – maybe ARPA funds. He said the county needs to find



people willing to start day cares, take in more kids and expand their scope. Issues will be ongoing and they impact workforce. One center has concerns that the federal vaccine mandate could affect its number of workers if some are unwilling to take vaccine. Nysveen noted that the Hillsboro EDC has been surveying previous day care operators to find out why they left the business; most cited burnout, cost and even wear and tear on homes. Murphy said Trails County has been in a good position according to Child Care Aware and “we want to stay that way.”

Murphy said the office staff met with a West Fargo development company about some of the opportunities available in Trails County, especially Hillsboro and Mayville. TCEDC did some work to help support the Grue Lutheran Church project Bobbi Hepper Olson is working on by Buxton, as well as with a grant request for the Trails County Historical Society/Plummer House. Murphy and Short also met with a construction company and a value-added ag business that’s eyeing a project in Mayville. Murphy said he’s cautiously optimistic, but it looks like the project is moving toward a yes. Short reiterated the need for land for the project – approximately 20 acres with utilities. They also started APUC grant work for a few businesses for either the coming quarter or the following.

Murphy spoke with representatives from both Mayville and Hatton about becoming Main Street communities. Murphy also is serving on the committee determining uses for the county’s ARPA funds and Murphy said he’s pushing for help for child care. Trails County emergency services personnel are planning another training exercise. More info will be released later.

Riverwood, Riverwalk and Bernie’s Addition project updates

Murphy spoke with the Riverwalk developer yesterday; he said some closings were coming in the next month on some of the properties there. Most of the infrastructure work is on hold for the winter. It sounds like it’s the same in Hatton. Murphy is still waiting on info about the housing projects for the updated “Come Home to Trails” videos.

Child care – Buxton renovation

Buxton Daycare completed a bathroom renovation that will allow it to expand capacity.

Timeline of annual reviews

The Executive Committee will meet with Murphy Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. Murphy and Short will have their evaluations sent to the committee by EOD Dec. 6. The same process as last year will be used.

Board appointment – Scott H. – need vote for new at-large position

In order to add Erickson to the Board an additional at-large position will need to be filled (as allowed for in the bylaws). Hershey moved to fill an additional at-large position, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried.

Portland Board member

TCEDC still will need a Portland rep on the Board; Murphy will look to fill this before the end of the year.

Board apparel

Murphy said Trall County recently did an apparel order and he was wondering if anyone would be interested in something similar for TCEDC. Murphy and Short will put together some options and order if there's interest.

Career Expo plan

Murphy asked for the Board's guidance on whether to hold an in-person job fair and career expo this winter. Lovas said our employers need employees; if requiring masks makes it work, do it. Murphy will reach out to the school principals to check on interest and a time frame.

Plans for events (COVID – Board recommendation)

Similar to the previous, TCEDC postponed its in-person events due to a COVID spike. The Board recommended TCEDC wait a bit but then move forward, especially in regard to workforce and child care.

Community updates

Wilson – The Galesburg Park Committee is planning a pancake feed in the upcoming month or so. Wilson will be gone for a few weeks in December.

Hershey – The Buxton City Council awarded a bid for snow removal. A building in town that's for sale garnered interest from another entity to take it over and revive the building. This individual is interested in fixing up in the property and expanding it with potential room for a business and storage. Hershey suggested the individual reach out to TCEDC and Bobbi Hepper Olson.

Hovde – Not a lot going on in Portland.

Phipps – The Hatton American Legion building is still standing. Turkey bingo was held at the community center and 175 people attended. COVID cases are going well at the school. The Legion building is supposed to be demolished at some point.

Knudsvig – The townships have sloppy roads; there will probably be frozen culverts in the spring and potential overland flooding. The Buxton Fire Department is hosting turkey bingo to raise money. The Reality Check program at Central Valley helped teach kids about managing money. Knudsvig would like to see TCEDC involved in the future and thinks more schools will want to do something like this. CV's one-act play team is going to state.

Trail County EDC – November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Elliott – The Traill County redistricting board met and a tax foreclosure sale is set. The Mayville Catholic church is hosting turkey bingo on Saturday and Clifford is hosting a Sip & Shop event Nov. 27 for Small Business Saturday.

Erickson – In Mayville, some houses in the older part of town are being bought, fixed up and turned into rentals.

Van Horn – Mayville State held a reception at the alumni center this week. The Larson Center was a rundown building that was completely renovated. Local legislators pushed hard for Mayville State at the legislative special session; the Legislature didn't come back with some of the funding MSU had hoped for but some groundwork was laid. MSU's \$30 million request was for updates to Old Main, which hasn't been renovated in 75-100 years. MSU also held an event last week with the N.D. ag commissioner.

Lovas – Drought conditions are improving for the spring planting season. Hillsboro's Riverwalk Addition has had a lot of activity. One of the local day cares had to shut down for a week during harvest, which was stressful for a number of families in the community. The Hillsboro Café is officially closed; Joe & Amanda Johnson are hosting meals there some Sundays. Paul Geray was elected to the Hillsboro City Commission after a special election.

Nysveen – Workers are stacking materials for the next phase of the Jordahl project in Hillsboro. HBA's Christmas celebration will be held Dec. 12 and will be changed completely. Mayville-Portland is hosting Winterfest the first weekend in December.

Lovas moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hershey. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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