

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
May 19, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
TCEDC Conference Room/Zoom Video Conference Call

Present: Board members: Gary Nysveen, Cassie Braaten, Roxanne Phipps, Brian Van Horn, Dustin Olson, Marshall Erickson and Jami Hovet. Also present: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director, Paul Hanson – District 20 legislative candidate, Mike Beltz – District 20 representative, Jared Hagert – District 20 representative, Randy Lemm – District 20 senator, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner and Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune.

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

Introductions

Hanson, Beltz, Hagert and Lemm gave brief introductions.

Secretary’s report

Van Horn moved to accept both the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes and the April 29-May 1, 2022 email minutes, seconded by Olson. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report/approve checks

Short noted some rebates that had come in, as well as some job fair cost-sharing between TCEDC and Traill United Group. She also indicated the 2021 beautification mini-grant for Sundae Brew had been issued, and that Hillsboro EDC had paid their portion of the Goose River Investments Flex PACE buydown. Olson moved to receive and approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Phipps. Motion carried.

Short said the checks on the approval list all were routine and there was nothing of note. Braaten moved to approve checks, seconded by Hovet. Motion carried.

Executive Director’s report

Murphy said he and Short had just returned from Watford City for a funding request and the Marketing Committee had met before the board meeting. TCEDC also has been providing ongoing assistance with the Degelman expansion. Workforce issues are coming along but “everyone in the world will have them for the next 20 years.”

Murphy was the keynote speaker at a high school trades conference hosted in Hillsboro. There were 300-400 students attending. He also attended CTE meetings at HHS, which is looking at revamping its tech programs. TCEDC has spoken with several employers in the county about job shadowing and internships to expose young people to the types of industries and jobs in this



market. Murphy and Short also met with a Buxton manufacturer regarding workforce issues; that company is staffed at roughly 60 percent of where they'd like to be.

Murphy and Short have been researching funding options for a water main project in Hatton passed along some information. They also met with a representative from McGough Construction, which has an interest in rural projects.

The TCEDC staff has had several meetings with Trails County, Hillsboro planning and zoning, Hillsboro EDC and the city of Hillsboro regarding two 24-plex apartment buildings. Short noted there is interest in the apartments from businesses outside of Hillsboro, as well. They also talked with someone in the hospitality industry about the potential for another hotel in the market.

Murphy and Short worked on collecting beautification mini-grant applications throughout the month, met with Trails District Health regarding a health equity grant and its possible uses and participated in the Trails County hazard mitigation meeting. They also spent a chunk of time, including nights and weekends, on flood-related public information work for emergency management.

Housing updates

Phase 2 of the Riverwood Addition in Mayville is starting to gain traction and momentum. Riverwalk is a priority in Hillsboro and hopefully the approvals for two apartment buildings by the time Jordahl wants to build. The new twinhomes being built by Jordahl near Kiwanis housing in Hillsboro already are spoken for.

Buxton info for “Come Home to Trails” campaign

Still looking for this info, but not Buxton reps at the meeting.

Partners in Planning grant update and strategic plan going forward

TCEDC didn't receive a Partners in Planning grant, which would have helped fund a strategic plan and housing study. TCEDC had allocated \$12,000 toward the project if the grant was successful.

Beautification & child care grant recommendations/approvals

The Marketing committee prior to the full board meeting and reviewed applications; Van Horn, chair of the Marketing committee, said the committee received more applications than they had funds, although they weren't recommending approval of all projects.

Van Horn moved to increase the proposed original budget from \$20,000 to \$27,436.50 to accept the grant requests that met all criteria and that were recommended by the committee. Van Horn noted that the grant awards will help create about a \$548,000 investment in our county and

communities. Murphy said the additional funding could come in part from the funds that previously were allocated as the Partners in Planning grant cost-share, and Short noted there also was a \$7,350 tax overage from 2021. Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The child care grant requests will be tabled until the June meeting. Three applications have been received and the Marketing Committee will meet to discuss them prior to the June board meeting.

Website updates

Short explained some changes TCEDC had asked Absolute to make to the existing website to keep the content updated and ease maintenance. She said the site's most popular pages – careers, housing and the business directory – all required continuous updates that could easily take up all her time, and as a result, she's not able to keep the content as updated as she'd like. Short and Murphy have been working with Absolute on some workarounds, including linking directly to Zillow's listings for each community, and building a self-service portal for employers to post and maintain their own job openings. The Marketing Committee previously allocated some of its 2022 marketing budget toward this project.

Transfer of \$10,000 to reserve fund

Short asked Erickson to initiate a transfer of \$10,000 from the general fund to the reserve fund.

Community updates

Erickson – Hardware Hank in Mayville is for sale.

Hovet – Farmers are in the fields and the township roads near Cummings held up pretty well throughout the flooding. The city of Buxton is still looking into its siren option and possible funding streams.

Phipps – Hatton EDC will be meeting Wednesday. Tomorrow is the last day of school at Hatton Eielson. The Hatton School Board election is June 7.

Van Horn – Mayville State held commencement exercises May 14 with a graduating class somewhere between 240-250. Pitched the Old Main renovation to the state board of higher education. The Old Main renovation will be THE project for MSU next biennium. The building hasn't had many renovations since it was constructed around 1890 so there is a tremendous amount of deferred maintenance and non-ADA compliance. MSU is hosting the Shrine Bowl June 18. MSU's DECA club, for which Olson is an adviser, had an impressive showing at the international conference in April. Of the 101 students receiving leadership passport awards across the nation, 19 were MSU students.

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Olson – No updates.

Braaten – A committee is working to push along Riverwood Phase II in Mayville. No movement yet on the Jordahl project but Murphy said they were targeting July to start this work.

Nysveen – KFGO radio was broadcasting from Goose River Brewing in Hillsboro today. The Region 1 softball tournament will be held at Olsen Softball Complex this weekend. The brewery has been open Friday and Saturday evenings, and plans to start serving breakfast Monday mornings. Pat Muller went to Costa Rica to discuss installing a spraying system on equipment at a pineapple plantation. He’s also Trying to get CBD into that market as well. June 1 is the estimated start date for construction on a house on a river lot in Riverwalk. Hopefully the Jordahl 24-plex goes through. The Hillsboro Inn might be changing hands.

Van Horn moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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