

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
September 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
The Goose River Bank, Mayville, N.D.

The meeting was preceded by a 6:30 p.m. tour of downtown Mayville.

Present: Board members: Gary Nysveen, Roxanne Phipps, Cassie Braaten, Marshall Erickson, Dave Knudsvig, Jami Hovet, Ben Hershey, Dr. Brian Van Horn. Also attending: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner, Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Nysveen.

Agenda Additions

North Dakota's investment in child care

Secretary's report

Van Horn moved to accept the Aug. 18, 2022 meeting minutes (with a minor typo corrected), seconded by Phipps. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report/approve checks

Short said she and Murphy were getting the credit card cluster sorted out. The report includes some fees related to the Recruiting Blueprint event, as well as beautification and child care grant payouts. She also noted that the Hillsboro Café has started repaying its direct loan. Hovet moved to receive and approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Knudsvig. Motion carried.

The checks included TCEDC's annual website fees. Short noted that more of the office software is moving to a subscription model instead of on-premise and she'd likely need to update Quickbooks later this year to a subscription model, as well. Erickson moved to approve checks with one signer, seconded by Braaten. Motion carried.

Executive director's report

Murphy said the office has been working with a Portland business that is getting back up to speed in terms of an expansion, workforce, etc. The Hatton bakery has put off its purchase of an oven due to workforce shortages. Shining Lights child care center in Hillsboro may be in the process of purchasing a building. Murphy and Short also talked to a District 20 legislator about feedback on a proposed state child care assistance program.

Murphy and Short are working with a Devils Lake company about H-2A and H-2B workforce options. The company specializes in immigration, visas and related services for ag industries and businesses. They're going to set up a meeting to see how this company can help. They're also



continuing to work with the North Dakota Livestock Alliance and are asking for the county commission's resolution supporting this. NDLA wants more ag businesses in the state and the organization's goal might be to get a site selection document drawn up for all the counties. The group is willing to do this at no charge for Traill County to build their portfolio. For TCEDC, having the tool is an asset regardless of whether it's an ag business or another type of business.

The office continues to monitor the beautification grants, trying to keep those on pace for the year. They spoke with a Hatton businesses about a new buildout and signage, as well as the Delchar in Mayville about the theater's upcoming expansion. They spoke with the owner of a Hillsboro building looking for potential tenants and did some assistance with a restaurant in Hillsboro. TCEDC received a call from the Minnesota Wild asking about advertising; the only professional sports team in Minnesota who hasn't called this year is the Timberwolves. They discussed a possible geological tourism feature in Blanchard and helped MSU find sponsorship for a legislative event. They also offered some fundraising consulting for a local nonprofit.

Murphy sent some USDA info to Portland and Hatton about possible grant funding for their water tower projects. He and Short helped coordinate the work group for a placemaking grant for the city of Hillsboro, and assisted the Galesburg Park Committee with fundraising for its cornhole and pork butt event. Murphy and Short attended the NDEMA annual conference and fielded many calls about housing availability. They also attended Big Iron and spoke with about 40 people.

Murphy requested that the October meeting be moved from Oct. 20 to Oct. 13 to accommodate a family event he needs to attend.

Recruiting Blueprint update

Murphy said more than 50 people attended and it was a fantastic event. Short said the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Van Horn said he appreciated that the presentation was tailored for smaller communities like ours.

Update on North Dakota Livestock Alliance

No update on the timing of this; Murphy said it would take a while to get the research done.

Community Showcase details

TCEDC is putting together this event for Nov. 10 at Goose River Brewing in Hillsboro. Murphy said that getting local communities on board is crucial and he and Short will give them some ideas about what to present.

Board member updates/replacements for 2023

Phipps and Nysveen are seeking replacements as they term out. Hovet recommended Ashley Kleveland in Hatton as a possibility.

Jordahl/Meridian update

Murphy noted the five new structures south of the Catholic church in Mayville. The 10 units are slated to be done in November. In Hillsboro, Jordahl appears to be finishing the rest of the cul-de-sac. The 24-plex still has a chance of getting started this fall.

Riverwalk update

Two homes are being built and a lot apparently was sold to house more townhomes. There's been a lot of landscaping work.

Riverwood update

Braaten said MPEDC is getting estimates on utilities and other infrastructure; the project is moving slowly.

North Dakota's investment in child care

Murphy and Short talked to a District 20 legislator about Gov. Burgum's child care proposal. In short, the state may help subsidize child care. There are a lot of pieces to the program. Hovet noted some of Burgum's talking points: that North Dakota went from the oldest state (age-wise) to the fourth-youngest state in the nation; the state has the highest fertility rates, so these issues will continue; the state has 45,000 household with 64,000 kids under the age of 5; non-typical hours for child care also will be a need.

Van Horn suggested asking Jessi Hegg, director of MSU's Child Development Programs, to talk to the board about CDP and Head Start. He said it's tough for CDP to find qualified employees, and to keep their Head Start funding, they have to be fully enrolled. They can't always find enough enrollees, so there seems to be a mixed message. Hegg will speak at an upcoming meeting and Murphy will invite the local legislators, too.

Community updates

- Phipps – Hatton Eielson School qualified for an extended school program grant, so before- and after-school care are free of charge right now. Parent involvement is needed to make the program work. Forty kids are signed up for the program, which uses a 21st Century grant and ESSER funds. The grant is for one year. Student workers help, as well, and workers (teachers, students, parents) are paid for their time.
- Braaten – Mayville's streets are a mess.
- Erickson – The Galesburg pork butt event looked like a success and the committee was ecstatic by the turnout (including 75 entries in the car show). The committee raised enough money for a playground set.

Trails County EDC – September 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Knudsvig – Township roads are in good shape. Central Valley has a similar before- and after-school program to Hatton’s; it was needed to retain families in the area.
- Hovet – The car show in Mayville last weekend drew entries of around 400 cars.
- Hershey – It’s homecoming week for Hillsboro and Central Valley, with the game tomorrow night at CV’s field. Buxton’s new siren was installed a few months ago and they’re working out a few minor technical challenges. The city has been doing some work with its lagoon and they paid for system to sonar the bottom; right now they’re primarily doing preventative maintenance, like adding good bacteria. There have been some water main breaks in town and they’ve have had to cut through some of the new streets. The city council approved a few new drainage locations to be installed after the spring thaw. Buxton’s mayor wanted to thank TCEDC for putting together the mayors’ social in August. He noted at a city council meeting that he thought it was a great event – networking, meeting other, learning about grant opportunities – and wants it to be an annual event.
- Van Horn – MSU’s football team won a really big game last Saturday. Farmers Bowl is this Saturday. Last week MSU hosted the interim higher ed committee; 25-30 legislators toured Old Main. MSU is requesting \$50 million for its Old Main project, which is very much needed. Van Horn is willing to host a walk-through in January for some of the economic developers to see the state of the building when TCEDC hosts the EDND regional meeting. He also would host the TCEDC board for a walk-through.
- Nysveen –Degelman in Hillsboro is pouring concrete and making dirt piles. Anchor’s new building is going up. Dakota Heritage Bank moved into the old Wells Fargo building. Jordahl is moving ahead, as is Riverwalk. Hillsboro Public Schools needs about \$12 million to \$18 million to renovate both its schools. There’s an upcoming meeting to discuss the cost of new construction and what that would look like, as well as what to do with the old building. There are a lot of security and ADA issues with the existing building.

Van Horn moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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