

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
October 13, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Luckasen Room, Mayville State University, Mayville, N.D.

The meeting was preceded by a 6:30 p.m. tour of the Old Main building on MSU's campus.

Present: Board members: David Knudsvig, Ben Hershey, Dustin Olson, Marshall Erickson, Cassie Braaten, Dr. Brian Van Horn and Jami Hovet. Also in attendance: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director, Jessi Hegg – Director of MSU Child Development Programs, Amber Hill – MSU Vice President of Business Affairs, Mike Beltz – District 20 Representative and Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Vice Chair Knudsvig.

Introductions

Van Horn introduced Hegg and Hill; Murphy introduced Beltz.

Secretary's report

Hershey moved to accept the Sept. 15, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report/approve checks

Short said the office is close to receiving its full 2022 tax allocation. Beautification grant reimbursement requests are slowly trickling in and she'd like to see more of these coming in soon. The county was informed that the 2021 audit will be combined with the 2022 audit, for which paperwork will need to be submitted ASAP in January. Hovet moved to receive and approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Erickson. Motion carried.

The checks included New Jobs Training disbursements for Degelman and Traill United Group. Hershey moved to approve checks with one signer, seconded by Braaten. Motion carried.

Executive director's report

Murphy said TCEDC hosted an event with five of the county's largest employers and Labor Inbound regarding H-2A and H-2B work visas. There seemed to be a lot of discussion and synergy between business representatives following the meeting. Short asked Murphy if he could pause his report so Hegg could speak earlier in the meeting.

Childcare discussion with Jessi Hegg

Hegg explained how MSU CDP is fairly unique within the state because the group runs a child care program, has preschool classrooms and includes a Head Start program, meaning they



receive federal funding. MSU CDP's sites also are the county's only Step 3 Quality Rated Programs. Finding workers is a challenge; preferred qualifications for workers include degrees in early childhood education or elementary education with an early childhood focus. The discrepancy in pay between a kindergarten teacher versus a child care worker is significant.

The CDP sites need to stay fully enrolled in order to keep federal funding and Van Horn said there's a general assumption that the program is difficult to get into or that there's a long waitlist, but they're actually under-enrolled in certain age groups, such as ages 4-5. Van Horn said the centers aren't in any jeopardy of closing, but they have had to reduce the number of children at which the center can be fully enrolled due to lack of workforce. Murphy asked Hegg if she had one wish Beltz could pass along to his fellow legislators; she said to continue some of the grant opportunities.

Executive Director's report (continued)

Murphy and Short met with Wonderschool, a for-profit company that helps day cares with the administrative side of things. Murphy also heard feedback from a company that received a training grant that they'd made partnership with the North Dakota Trade Office. The company received an NDTO conference grant and have meetings lined up with international companies. He also spoke with several legislators at the Greater ND Chamber policy summit, specifically about the Old Main project.

The office continues to work on a plan for the upcoming Community Showcase. Murphy spoke with a risk mitigation specialist about a planned multifamily housing project. He also spoke with Halstad Telephone Co. about a \$2.8 million grant that others in the room had a hand in supporting. Murphy spoke at an entrepreneurship class at MSu, spoke with a potential home-based startup in the county and talked to a green energy company about a possible installation in Traill. He also received feedback about the Grand Forks Herald article regarding TCEDC's work with Labor Inbound.

Murphy spoke with a podcaster in Mayville about appearing on his podcast. He spoke with Patrick Bertagnolli about speaking in Traill County about community building, student engagement, workforce recruitment, etc. He and Short also submitted ideas for possible uses of sales tax funds for Hillsboro EDC.

Community Showcase

The event is set for Nov. 10 in Hillsboro and Murphy hopes for 40 attendees. The event is not open to the public due to space and costs.

Board member replacements

Tabled because Nysveen and Phipps were not in attendance.

Housing update

The Jordahl units in Mayville are coming up quickly. A few homes are almost done in Hillsboro's Riverwalk Addition. Riverwood Phase II in Mayville is coming along slowly.

2023 budget

Approved as submitted.

Primary Sector Training Grant renewal

TCEDC has had a \$5,000 pool available each of the past two years. Only one company took advantage of it in 2022 but it paid off. Hershey moved to once again allocate \$5,000 to the Primary Sector Training Grant program, with matching grants up to \$1,000 per company, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried.

Potential workforce/community development speaker in January

Murphy is hoping to get Bertagnolli to Traill County in January. Short said he has a great message that's applicable to schools, community members and businesses.

Community updates

- Hershey – The city of Buxton is pulling together info for the Community Showcase so the city can advertise lots they have available in town. Central Valley isn't doing the Reality Check program this year but will make a bigger push to do more of a job-shadowing activity and the school is looking for businesses willing to participate. The Buxton Fire Dept. held its harvest feed Saturday night and had great attendance. Ice is going in at the MayPort Youth Center and the facility is converting to natural gas.
- Olson – Natural gas seems pretty well set up in Portland. The city of Portland is working on a grant to try to replace the water tower. There's a Halloween party scheduled at Norsemen Hall.
- Hovet – The Reynolds Knights of Columbus harvest feed is set for Sunday, Nov. 6, although they're serving drive-thru only. Water lines are going in on the east side of Buxton, headed toward Climax.
- Erickson – A Sip & Shop event will be held Nov. 26 in Clifford.
- Braaten – The MayPort Community Club Halloween Carnival will be held at Norsemen Hall. Mayville Lutheran is hosting a community spaghetti supper with activities for both kids and adults, and donations for the angel tree project.
- Van Horn – Thanks to everyone for attending the tour; he's a big believer in not hounding legislators but is a big believer in asking. The natural gas conversion project is nearing its completion date. Hill said the project is a big deal. Homecoming was a

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fantastic weekend and a who's who of coaches, including Randy Vigen, who was inducted into the MSU Coaches Hall of Fame.

- Knudsvig – There were a few flurries in the country this morning and township roads are getting worse because it's too dry; they're getting washboardy. Beltz said Prairie Dog funds are coming.

Hovet moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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