

**SECRETARIAL NOTES
PROSPERITY EASTERN IOWA (PEI)**

DATE: January 25, 2025
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: ECIA In-Person/Zoom Meeting
7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque, Iowa

**VOTING
PRESENT (8):
MEMBERS**

=Present

- Donna Boss, Delaware County Economic Development (DCED)
- Maggie Sommers, Delaware County Tourism
(alternate for Donna Boss)
- Angela Rheingans, DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC)
- Jacque Rahe-VC, Dyersville Economic Development Corporation (DEDC)
- Cindy Oberbroeckling, Dyersville Workforce Development
(alternate for Jacque Rahe)
- Derek Lumsden-C, Jones Co. Economic Development Corp. (JCEDC)
- Kelley Brown, Jackson County Economic Alliance (JCEA)
- Dale Mescher, Cascade Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)
- Jill Connors, City of Dubuque Economic Development
- Linda Beck, Tipton Economic Development
- Brian Wagner, City of Tipton
- Nic Hockenberry, Greater Dubuque Development (GDCC)
- Andy Solkovich, Clinton County

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Amy Kulhers, Sourcelink
- Megan Prezley, Sourcelink
- Clark Smith, EDC Forge
- Amy Lasack, NICC
- Mike Steines, Jackson County BOS
- Jeff Beneke – Iowa STEM Council
- Michelle Turner, Limestone Bluff RC&D
- Kiley Miller, Alliant Energy
- Amy Green NICC
- Kiley Miller—Alliant Energy
- Stephanie Sagers, Maquoketa Art Experience
- Teresa Weinschenk, Grant Wood Loop (City of Bellevue)
- Greg Willging, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC)
- Victor Ochoa, IowaWorks
- Marie Ware, Grant Wood Loop (City of Dubuque)

STAFF PRESENT:

- Katie Steffensmeier, Community Outreach & ED Coordinator
- Dawn Danielson, Brownfield Coordinator
- Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator
- Craig Elskamp, Building Code Inspector
- Holly McPherson, Director of HR and Program Development
- Tricia Wagner, Grant Writer and Program Development Coordinator

Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Review/Approval of Agenda for November 20th Meeting

Motion by Solkovich, second by Brown to approve the agenda for the January 25 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approval of Secretarial Notes

Motion by Brown, second by Sokovich to approve the Secretarial Notes from November 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Iowa Sourcelink

Amy Kuhlert and Megan Prezely joined virtually and shared business resources found on the Iowa Sourcelink site. There are business guides, non-profit and daycare resources for example and resource links including for business license. To join the newsletter go to www.iasourcelink.com/newsletter. They can also assist with being a connector with IEDA and help find resources. Steffensmeier asked about any new funding around the pike- treasury funds, and collateral support (for women, minorities, rural communities), and a lender/loan for start up/improvements/ capital should be coming. They also do one on one video calls.

EDC Forge

Clark Smith joined virtually and started LOIS and founded EDC Forge and has developed the program over the last 7 years. He walked through all of the features of the program including contacts, projects, companies, organizations, sites and buildings, that was born after synchronist stopped. Constantly designing and adding new features. The fee is \$1,000. He has also designed the business survey for use on an Ipad or phone. Following his presentation there was discussion of exploring having this program for our region. Hockenberry and Solkovich use the program currently.

ECIA Nuisance Abatement and Code Enforcement

Marla Quinn shared more information about how she helps cities/city clerks with nuisance abatement properties and the typical process. She also shared before and after photos of properties that were cleaned up.

Craig Elskamp shared how he can help with inspections of buildings as needed to make sure they are up to code.

ECIA Brownfield update

Dawn Danielson shared a video about her brownfield program and answered questions about the program.

Idea sharing, Other Business, Events

Upcoming events: Steffensmeier noted Grant Wood Loop sub committees and board met for a works session to discuss the group dissolving. They are formulating a plan and will share updates in the future. The Federally funded Lead and Healthy Homes programs has expanded from Dubuque, Delaware, Cedar, Clinton, and Jackson counties to include Jones and Scott counties. The new city of Clinton and Maquoketa grant has also begun. USDA training topics coming up are Budget, Procurement, TIF, and Iowa League of Cities to host Municipal Leadership Academy.

You all should receive those emails. The search for ECIA's next Executive Director has also begun and is posted on the ECIA webpage.

Rahe mentioned more progress at the Field of Dreams.

Miller noted there are 8 slots at Sessions at the Heartland Conference. He is also looking for any cool ideas to share at the Iowa Rural Summit.

Benek passed along the ISTEM applications- opens – 13 programs.

Lasack April 30 has Chad Dahl presenting on crisis and poverty at NICC Peosta.

Green – Attended for Willging. NICCC college day on the hill, new jobs training, a Brain Health Summit and the Business summit is Wed May 21st in Peosta.

Boss has her work based learning events coming up with 200 students going to Kendrick Forest Products.

Brown mentioned her Drop box was hacked so she apologizes if you already got an email/invoice from her (that is not from her). They just hosted 3 out of the 4 childcare meetings. Maquoketa just received a \$400,00 Thriving Communities grant for Prairie Creek.

Steines had no update, he's here to listen and learn.

Turner received \$62,000 from the National Association of Conservation for an intern to assist with forestry in Anamosa.

Hockenberry is working on 2025/26 Childcare initiatives including attraction and recruitment and says he is willing to share lessons learned while building childcare facilities. He also reminds about PDI Legislative updates on Mondays, and next week they are going to the capital. More information on the PDI website.

Lumsden shared exciting news, resulting from the PEI tour of the Homes for Iowa facility. Jones county has purchased a 3 bed 2 bath home and located in Monticello. They are in the process of selling for \$200,000. Just listing it now and hoping to sell soon.

Other Business

Next meeting will be March 24, 2025 to be held virtually (in person is optional).

Adjourn

Lumsden adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Steffensmeier

Community Outreach and Economic Development Coordinator