

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

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2024

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: ECIA In-Person/Zoom Meeting
7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque, Iowa

**VOTING
PRESENT (8):
MEMBERS**

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- 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, Dyersville Economic Development Corporation (DEDC)
- Cindy Oberbroeckling, Dyersville Workforce Development
(alternate for Jacque Rahe)
- Derek Lumsden, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Marie Ware, Grant Wood Loop (City of Dubuque)
- Teresa Weinschenk, Grant Wood Loop (City of Bellevue)
- Dan McDonald, Greater Dubuque Development Corp. (GDDC)
- Greg Willging, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC)
- Victor Ochoa, IowaWorks
- Amy Lasack, NICC
- Ted Nellesen, Iowa Department of Management
- Mike Steines, Jackson County BOS
- Jeff Benkhe – Iowa STEM Council
- Steph Sagers, Maquoketa Art Experience
- Sheryl Ganzer, Preston
- Ben Davison, JCEA
- James Gastineau, DNR

STAFF PRESENT:

- Katie Steffensmeier, Community Outreach & ED Coordinator
- Holly McPherson, Director of HR and Program Development
- Dawn Danielson, Development Coordinator
- Christine Efferding, Administrative/Special Programs Assistant
- Tricia Wagner, Grant Writer and Program Development Coordinator

Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lumsden at 9:30 a.m. Introductions of board members, guests and staff followed.

The members of the Prosperity Eastern Iowa are holding this session by electronic means pursuant to the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law, Section 21.8, Code of Iowa, and due to the limited agenda for

this meeting, relatively short period of time that this meeting is expected to be held, the expense of transporting the board members in person is impractical. The meeting is being held by phone or internet means originating from the ECIA offices in Dubuque. It is open to the public and those in attendance can hear the proceedings. Public notice of the meeting has been issued in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.4.

Review/Approval of Secretarial Notes

Minutes were not approved at this meeting as there was not a quorum present at the beginning of the meeting.

DNR Storage Tank Removal – James Gastineau, Iowa DNR

Gastineau presented a learning session to PEI about underground storage tank removal. He explained how they became a problem, why they continue to be a problem, and how to best mitigate them when discovered. He spoke about threats to the environment as well as water supplies. Gastineau ended by discussing mitigation options and funding available through DNR. Anyone who discovers or knows of an underground storage tank should contact him for more information.

Brownfield Update

Danielson spoke about some current project updates. There are 5 active projects, including some nuisance projects. There will be an open house to allow public feedback on one of the sites in Anamosa. Other sites are in Clinton, and Tipton. \$173,000 of assessment funds are committed which is about 26% of grant funds.

RLF projects are also underway and funds are being used to demolish buildings. Another site that had been considered is classified as a historic site, so making sure all regulations are being followed there is slowing the project down a bit.

In April, the From Fixer to Fabulous Event is being hosted to inform communities about how to best mitigate Brownfields, and what other resources might be available.

Grant Wood Loop Group Committee Updates

Brown and Weinschenk reported that instead of breaking into different committees, the board will come together to work together moving forward. A Google doc is going to be created for area project to be posted in, where entities can come together to try to secure funding. Ware is going to work on reviewing Bylaws and the Strategic Plan, and continue working with ECIA. Additionally, they are seeking more diversity within the committee and seeking to develop more resources for the area.

Possible Bus Trip Details - May

Steffensmeier is putting together a bus trip to Iowa Prison Industries to tour the facilities there on May 22 in lieu of a meeting. Homes are built there by folks who have been incarcerated, and in the process teaches inmates life skills for after their release which reduces recidivism in the long run. She will be sending more details out soon.

Idea sharing, Other Business, Events

- a. Upcoming Trainings/Events
 - 1) Wagner invited the board and the public to USDA trainings held both virtually and in person throughout the counties. More information about those trainings can be found on the ECIA website.
 - 2) PDI, Heartland, and Com Dev conferences are coming up.
- b. DRA Update

- 1) McPherson will be presenting to the DRA Board about progress on this grant. This work has gone into developing tourism landing pages for smaller communities on the Travel Dubuque site, as well as features in the Travel Dubuque travel guide. The marketing campaign will begin in May, and targets travelers within 200 miles of Dubuque.

Organizational Updates

Lumsden thanked Brown and Rheingans for working with him on the budget. One goal is to expand membership by reaching out to newer or former members to see how we can best assist or address those issues. Another conversation resulted in the suggestion to make winter meetings informational with speakers, and summer meetings more mission focused.

Partner Updates

Angela Rheingans and Jacque Rahe spoke about the market rate housing development utilizing HUD financing is still waiting to close, and will be announced when it finally does. Two other apartment buildings are also being built in the community. The stadium for Field of Dreams is also working with the MLB for some contracts. There is also a daycare that is well on the way for construction. They are hoping to open in October of 2024 with 250 daycare slots.

Victor Ochoa spoke about the workforce side, in which it is all hands on deck due to some closures and mass lay offs. They are going to start with local employees and then branch out to develop job fairs.

Dan McDonald said he hopes to see some people at PDI, and thanked people for attending the new childcare center opening.

Jeff Behnke informed the board about the April 10th conference through Iowa STEM and sent more information. April 18th is the Dubuque County STEM festivals and all are encouraged to attend.

Amy Lasack spoke about being a Title I Provider in the region to assist folks in getting back into the workforce.

Theresa Weinschenk spoke about some economic development projects that she will hopefully be able to share more information on specifically in the next few months.

Cindy Oberbreckling shouted out to ModernFold for commissioning their third building which increased their capacity by 30%.

Other Business

Next meeting will be Monday, May 20, 2024 either as a tour in Newton or at ECIA.

Adjourn

Lumsden adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Steffensmeier
Community Outreach and Economic Development Coordinator