

Egan called to order the regular meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on Aug. 4, 2008 in Conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members Bob Egan, Jim Behling, & Chris Mayer; others Kurt Hartwig, Kelly Haverkamp, & Rosemary Leveille
Media present: Ken Anderson
The following County Board members were excused: Sig Hjemvick
The following County Board members were absent:

Approve Agenda: Motion by Mayer, second by Behling to approve the agenda to be handled in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Mayer, second by Behling to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Agenda item # 4: Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves

Agenda item # 5: Guest Presentation – Kurt Hartwig, from Eagle Fuel Cells explained the workings of the company and the fact that they have a second part to the company-Eagle Technology Company. The fuel cells that they mainly deal with are for all types of planes and they have limited dealings with race cars. Eagle Fuel Cells is possibly looking to expand and bring another 10 – 20 jobs to the area. They are looking to expand to an additional building to meet the requirements of keeping the plane and car division separate. Mr. Hartwig came to this committee in search of help in procuring monies to move on with their expansion. He was told that as of now the County does not have a program to help, but that this committee is trying to rectify that situation.

Agenda item # 6: Further development of committee strategies for 2008 – Haverkamp said that the Towns Association for the Vilas County unit will be having a meeting in September and would like the Economic Development Committee to attend. An updated draft of Vilas Vision for Vitality (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the committee. Strategy # 1: formulate questions for towns meeting – one possible question was mentioned; after discussion Behling suggested in the interest of time that he and Haverkamp work on this and bring some possible questions back to the next meeting. **Motion by Behling to invite someone from the NCWRPC to the August 19th County Board meeting to give a presentation. Motion was withdrawn. Motion by Behling, second by Mayer to invite someone from the NCWRPC to the September 16th County Board meeting to give an informational presentation on what they can offer to the county. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Haverkamp will invite Dennis Lawrence from NCWRPC. Strategy #3: other options for organizational structures and funding – the committee needs additional information on how ED organizations are structured, for example Commissions and/or Corporations. The Supreme Court has ruled that both a Commission and Corporation are subject to the open meetings law. Strategy #5; growth sectors in business and industry – it was suggested that Emerson Coy and Brian Gauthier be invited to the meetings to share their views. Behling suggested that an inventory of businesses in the county be compiled.

Agenda item # 7: Reports and updates: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, a newsletter was passed around for the committee's perusal. Grown North, Egan stated that the Hi-Speed grant that was written by them was denied, and they are trying to get the Hi-speed groups in the area to come together and help each other or join forces. They are also working on a "Park 'n Ride" program. Haverkamp stated that there is a Lake Superior Technology Conference in Ashland on Aug. 6 & 7; the committee also received the information and a registration form (on file in the UWEX Office).

Agenda item # 8: Budget/Approval of bills – There were no bills for this month.

Agenda item #9: Out-of County travel - **Motion by Mayer, second by Behling for Haverkamp to attend the Lake Superior Technology Conference. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 13: Correspondence and Communications: Nothing for this month

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: **Motion by Mayer, second by Behling to adjourn at 11:15a.m. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.
Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille