

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on March 2, 2009 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members Bob Egan, Ralph Sitzberger, Emil Bakka, Charles Rayala, & Jim Behling others Kelly Haverkamp, Roger Weber, Bill Lochte, Sandy Kirby, Northern Lights Conferencing LLC, Jeff Collins, Matt Schreiber, Charlie Carufel, Jim Levandoski, & Rosemary Leveille

Media present: Ken Anderson, & Eric Johnson

The following County Board members were excused:

The following County Board members were absent:

Agenda item # 2: Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves.

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

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009 for Economic Development meeting by Bakka, second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Agenda item # 5: Guest Presentation – Sandy Kirby, Northern Lights Conferencing, LLC, introduced herself and explained her upcoming business. She gave out a written synopsis (on file in the UWEX office) of the services and ways of using these services. Egan thanked Kirby for coming and welcomed her new business to the county. She was also invited back with updates at anytime.

Agenda item #6: Economic Development Reports and updates - **A)** Committee strategies for 2009 – Haverkamp stated that the Manitowish Waters town forum was successful. 6 citizens came to the meeting and discussed what they feel is needed in the county for growth and sustainability along with a laundry list of ideas and recommendations for the future. Schreiber, NCWRPC, distributed a draft (on file in the UWEX office) county profile, which he discussed item by item. Egan presented a letter (on file in the UWEX office) from Dennis Lawrence, NCWRPC, on stimulus updates; **B)** Grow North – Egan stated that the next meeting will be here in Vilas County at the Eagle River Inn on March 11th and will feature WI Dept. of Commerce Secretary Dick Leinenkugel as keynote speaker. Collins announced that he will be attending a meeting with Barbara Brown at the NTIA in Washington DC to discuss the need for internet services stimulus monies in our area; **C)** other Economic Development Activities – Haverkamp reported that the Inventors and Entrepreneurs Expo was a great success with 90 exhibitors including 4 people that attended the Entrepreneur’s Boot Camp in Eagle River.

Agenda item # 7: Broadband Sub-Committee - Egan read a letter from Favorite, County Board Chair, stating that a subcommittee is only a fact finding committee and can take no action. All information needs to be brought back to the Economic Development committee before any action can take place. This sub-committee will be comprised of Ralph Sitzberger, Chair and Jim Behling, Vice-Chair. A list of goals (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the members. Lochte explained a draft “Request for Information” (RFI) (on file in the UWEX office) that will be sent out to internet providers to gather data for further knowledge and understanding of these providers after approval by the Economic Development committee. **Motion to bring the draft to Milanowski, Corporation Counsel, as presented for her approval and/or revisions by Rayala, second by Bakka. The draft will then go back to the Broadband Sub-committee for discussion before it returns to this committee. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda Item # 8: Budget/Approval of Bills – Leveille provided an updated budget to the committee and presented the following vouchers: Kathleen Haverkamp-\$35.20 and Grow North-\$100.00. **Motion by Rayala, second by Behling to approve the vouchers. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda Item #9: Out-of-County Travel – None for this month.

Agenda item # 10: Correspondence and Communications – A brochure from the Workforce Development Board (on file in the UWEX office) was given to everyone. Weber commented that to promote the county tourism would be the way to go.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 6, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Rayala, second by Sitzberger to adjourn at 11:30a.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