

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Economic Development Committee  
Special Meeting**

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Meeting held virtually due to COVID-19

East Central WI RPC  
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite #100  
May 21, 2020

Committee Members Present:

<b>Member</b>	<b>County</b>
Allen Buechel, Chair	Fond du Lac County
Chuck Dallas, Vice-Chair	Shawano County
Alice Connors	Calumet County
Ruth Winter	Menominee County
Kara Homan	Outagamie County
Karen Harkness (for Jake Woodford)	Outagamie County

Committee Members Not Present:

<b>Member</b>	<b>County</b>
Mark Harris	Winnebago County

Staff Present:

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Role</b>
Melissa Kraemer Badtke	Interim Executive Director
Tom Baron, AICP	Principal Economic Development Planner
Adam Pfefferle	GIS Specialist II

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Buechel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. Statement of compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 regarding Open Meetings requirements

The meeting was found to be in compliance with Open Meetings requirements.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda / Motion to Deviate

A motion was made by Ms. Winter and seconded by Ms. Connors. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

6. News & Announcements

a. Other

Ms. Kraemer Badtke provided an update on recent staffing changes and resulting hiring processes for two Transportation Planners and the Controller position. She also provided an update about Outagamie County rescinding their withdrawal notice from the Commission based on an East Central reorganization plan.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

7. Summary of COVID-19 economic impact on East Central region

a. Assets

Mr. Baron noted a number of assets including ongoing communication efforts, local financial opportunities, and certain industries experiencing increased demand. There was discussion about these and additional assets in the region.

b. Pain Points

Mr. Baron provided pain points including concerns about reopening, tourism, main streets, and tax revenue. The group provided additional pain points.

8. Economic Development Administration (EDA) COVID-19 Competitive Grant Funding Opportunity

a. Summary of funding opportunity (**Attachment #1**)

Mr. Baron provided a summary of the EDA competitive grant opportunity and outreach activities associated with it.

b. Local interest

Mr. Baron noted areas of interest for the competitive grant including broadband, tourism, recovery planning, and higher education interest.

c. Regional projects

i. Regional Revolving Loan Fund

Mr. Baron noted that he has received ongoing interest in using EDA funds to capitalize a Regional Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Strengths and weaknesses for the RLF were discussed.

- d. State-wide projects

**ACTION ITEMS:**

9. Approval of the East Central Work Program & Budget to accept the EDA Institutional Grant (**Attachments #2, #3, and #4**)

Mr. Baron provided an overview of the EDA Institutional Grant including a summary of scope of work activities and other requirements for the non-competitive grant.

A motion to adopt Resolution 18-20 was made by Ms. Connors and seconded by Ms. Harkness. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Next meeting

Mr. Baron noted the next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, at ECWRPC offices.

11. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Connors, with a second by Ms. Harkness. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 AM.

*Any person wishing to attend this meeting or hearing, who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations should contact the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at (920) 751-4770 at least three business days prior to the meeting or hearing so that arrangements, within reason, can be made.*