

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Alice Connors (Chair), Jerry Bougie (Vice Chair), Allen Buechel, Brian Smith, Ruth Winter, Jake Woodford, Vacant

Place: Virtual

Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Kraemer Badtke welcomed attendees to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Alice Connors, Chair Calumet County
 Allen Buechel..... Fond du Lac County
 Aaron Jenson (Alt. for Brian Smith) Waupaca County
 Ruth Winter..... Menominee County
 Karen Harkness (Alt. for Jake Woodford)..... Outagamie County

Committee Members Absent:

Jerry Bougie, Vice Chair (Perm. Alt. for Jon Doemel) Winnebago County

ECWRPC Staff and Guests Present:

Melissa Kraemer Badtke Executive Director
 Kevin Englebert Assistant Director
 Sara Gilbert Associate Planner
 Leann Buboltz..... Administrative Coordinator

A. Introduction of Alternates, Staff, and Guests

Mr. Englebert announced the ECWRPC staff in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda / Motion to Deviate

Ms. Harkness motioned to approve the agenda, Mr. Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the October 6, 2021 Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Harkness motioned to approve the minute as presented, Mr. Buechel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Announcements and Updates – None.

7. Business / Action Items

A. New Business

- i. Approval of the 2022 Work Program & Budget - 1500 Element – Economic Development Program, Economic Development portion of the work program is divided into three distinct categories: The Planning Partnership Grant (1510-1520), the Main Street Bounceback Grants Program (1530), and the CARES Act Grant (1560-1565). An overview of these Work Program areas was presented by Mr. Englebert. The breakdown of the Work Program is available upon request.

Mr. Buechel motioned to approve the 2022 Work Program & Budget – 1500 Element Economic Development Program, Mr. Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Informational / Discussion Items

A. Staff Report – Mr. Englebert

- i. Planning Partnership Grant Update
Staff met with the Village of Greenville to discuss a business expansion project and met multiple times with the City of Brillion and their consultants to discuss EDA funding for the Brillion Iron Works site. Staff also attended the Small Community Forum in Weyauwega with State of Wisconsin officials to brainstorm solutions to economic problems for small and rural communities and attended the Wisconsin Broadband Summit hosted by UW-Extension as well. In addition, staff recently completed the 2021 CEDS Annual Performance Report and submitted the report to EDA. Several organizations requested and received EMSI reports over the last quarter including the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, Appleton International Airport, and the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation. East Central staff also continued to meet with regional stakeholders regarding economic development efforts. This included participating in the Fox Cities Economic Development Professionals (FCEDP), Northeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership (NEWREP), NEW North Local Partner meetings, and the Oshkosh Weekly Partners meetings over the past few months. East Central leadership staff met with the new Waushara County Administrator and Zoning Director to discuss Commission and economic development initiatives. Lastly, staff traveled to Menominee County to meet with the new President of Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) and tour the MTE sawmill. Discussions are ongoing about MTE seeking EDA funding for sawmill and site improvements.
- ii. CARES Act Grant Update
Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Plan Mr. Englebert shared that to date, staff have completed 31 stakeholder interviews to gain insight about COVID-19 economic impacts to various industries throughout our region. An additional project that we are working on is our Economic Development Data Hub. It contains data, graphs, wages and maps that show various indicators that can be displayed on one regional dataset that we'd like to make public later this year. Mr. Mike Zuege-GIS Manager will give a presentation to this committee.
Technical Assistance Downtown Walkabouts As part of East Central's CARES Act award, \$60,000 was identified to go towards a small business and community technical assistance program. We hired Ayres Associates to assist us. Eight communities were chosen to take part in visioning sessions, downtown walkabouts, zoning consultations and project collaborations. Ultimately, we received good feedback from the communities.

B. WEDC – Mainstreet Bounceback Grants Program

The Main Street Bounceback Grants Program officially launched on August 9, 2021 and will be open through June 30, 2022. A cumulative total of \$6 million will be available to make grant awards in our region. If all grants are administered, East Central would receive approximately \$170,000 to reimburse our expenses to run the program and to award approximately 600 grants in our region. Committee members acknowledged that staff has done a phenomenal job administering the program and assisting others.

C. County Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Buechel – FDL County - shared that the 2009 \$50 million loan to Mercury Marine and a 2014 \$6 million loan to Lions Laundry have been paid back completely. Mercury is about to embark on another expansion, which will give them 3 million sq. ft under roof.

9. Upcoming Meetings

- A. **Economic Development Committee Meeting:** The next Economic Development Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Further details will be forthcoming.
- B. **Commission Meeting:** The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Further details will be forthcoming.

10. Adjourn

Ms. Connors adjourned the meeting, with the time noted at 1:34 p.m.