

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: *Alice Connors (Chair), Jerry Bougie (Vice Chair), Sam Kaufman, John Jarvis, Jake Woodford, Vacant*

Place: Virtual

Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2022

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Connors welcomed attendees to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Alice Connors, Chair Calumet County
Sam Kaufman..... Fond du Lac County
Karen Harkness (Alt. for Jake Woodford) Outagamie County
Jerry Bougie (Alt. for Jon Doemel), Vice Chair..... Winnebago County

Committee Members Absent:

John Jarvis Waushara County

ECWRPC Staff and Guests Present:

Kevin Englebert Deputy Director
Mike Zuege..... GIS Manager
Colin Kafka..... 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, Vice Chair Bougie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the January 5, 2022 Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Passed as presented by unanimous consent.

6. Announcements and Updates – Mr. Englebert introduced the newest Associate Planner-Colin Kafka. Colin’s time will be split between the transportation and economic development areas at East Central.

7. Business / Action Items

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Harkness nominated Ms. Connors to serve as Chair of the committee. Nomination of Ms. Connors passed by unanimous consent to serve as Chair of the committee.

Ms. Harkness nominated Mr. Bougie to serve as Vice Chair of the committee. The nomination of Mr. Bougie passed by unanimous consent to serve as Vice Chair of the committee.

8. Informational / Discussion Items

A. Staff Report

i. WEDC – Mainstreet Bounceback Grants Program

Presented by Mr. Englebert-Deputy Director. The Main Street Bounceback Grants Program continues to be in high demand in the East Central region. In late May, the regional partners were contacted by WEDC about extending the program through the end of 2022, which subsequently occurred. In March, a minor revision to the region's eligibility criteria, which was approved by WEDC. Beginning June 1, WEDC revised program eligibility rules statewide so properties under 400ft² are no longer eligible for the program. During the two months a waitlist rule was in effect where a total of 15 applications were wait-listed. East Central staff performed a second review of the applications on the waitlist at the end of June and corresponded with applicant to verify that they are still operating in their locations. The Commission will be awarding grants as soon as we hear back from those applicants. Mr. Englebert relayed that to date, the Commission has received a total of \$7.5 million so far in funding for awards and administration.

- #### **ii. CARES Act Grant. Presented by Mr. Englebert-Deputy Director. EDA**
- offered all Economic Development Districts the ability to extend their grants and the Commission's extension was approved in June. The new grant deadline is now June 30, 2023. There are a few major components to the grant that still require more work. The first is the disaster recovery and economic resiliency plan. Recently, ECWRPC hired a new planner, Colin Kafka. Colin's position will be split between transportation and economic development. Previous East Central staff have worked on this plan, conducted all of the stakeholder interviews, and drafted chapters for the resiliency plan. Mr. Englebert informed the committee that staff will be focusing on synthesizing the disaster recovery and economic resiliency plan and bringing it to completion. Additionally, staff is nearly finished with the economic development data hub. With approval of the CARES Act Grant extension, the Commission was also approved for a second round of our economic development technical assistance program. This assistance will allow us to continue our partnership with Ayres to provide free technical assistance to communities in our region. This year there is enough funding for four day-long workshops with selected communities. There will be a competitive application for this assistance released in July. Applications will be scored in August and preparation for the visits will occur in September.

Staff will be conducting the technical assistance workshops the week of October 10-14.

- iii. Planning Partnership Grant. Presented by Mr. Englebert. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided EDA with \$3 billion in competitive grant funds for projects across the country. Staff have worked with applicants and prospective applicants throughout our region to apply for EDA grants. Typically, this involves project scoping, narrative and budget review, and issuing a letter of support for each application. Mr. Englebert provided a status update of grants submitted to EDA in the region.

Staff recently conducted a visit to MITW to meet with tribal planners and receive a tour of selected sites in Keshena. Staff are assisting the tribe as they implement their CARES Act grant for economic development diversification planning activities. Staff have also recently participated in the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Master Plan Steering Committee and the Fox Cities and Greater Outagamie County Regional Housing Strategy Steering Committee over the past several months.

- B. Economic Development Hub Demonstration. Presented by Mr. Englebert-Deputy Director and Mr. Zuege-GIS Manager. One work item identified under the scope of the CARES Act grant is the development of an economic development data hub for the region.: Mr. Zuege provided a demonstration of the hub. The hub is anticipated to be made public within the next few months.
- C. County Roundtable Discussion (*as time permits*)
 - Ms. Harkness indicated that downtown College Avenue-North at housing study will be published in August.
 - Vice Chair Bougie shared that Winnebago County Covid Relief Fund has closed their programs. They issued 37 loans with approximately \$350,000.00 issued out to small businesses.
 - Chair Connors indicated that the City of Chilton Mayor is currently looking into housing initiatives.

9. Upcoming Meetings

- A. ***Economic Development Committee Meeting:*** *The next Economic Development Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Further details will be forthcoming.*
- B. ***Commission Meeting:*** *The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at City of New London City Hall. An agenda and meeting materials will be forthcoming.*

10. Adjourn Chair Connors adjourned the meeting with the time noted at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Leann Buboltz – Administrative Coordinator
ECWRPC