

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB) MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 14, 2019  
Community Room, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, Spicer**

Present: Art Benson, Rollie Boll, Donna Boonstra, Jesse Gislason, Les Heitke and Kelly TerWisscha

Excused: Kerry Johnson

Ex Officio: Roger Imdieke

Guest: Sarah Swedburg, Interim Director, Willmar Planning & Development Services

Staff: Aaron Backman, Executive Director and Connie Schmoll, Business Development Specialist

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

President Kelly TerWisscha called the meeting to order at approximately 8:20 a.m. and declared a quorum was present.

**AGENDA—**

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Heitke, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA—**

- Approve:
1. Minutes of February 14, 2019 meeting
  2. Financial reports as of February 28, 2019
  3. Payment of bills:
    - a. REDstar Creative Dec. 2018 invoice of \$2,079.51
    - b. Willmar Lakes Area Vision 2040 \$2,000 as budgeted
    - c. Blane Canada for Synchronist software \$1,100 as budgeted
    - d. WORKUP \$1,350 as budgeted
    - e. REDstar Creative Feb. 2019 invoice of \$1,260
    - f. \$34,000 to Willmar Lakes Area CVB as budgeted
  4. Addition of Travis Jones to the Finance Committee
- Accept: Committee/Subcommittee Minutes
1. Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development 1/17/2019
    - a. Ag Marketing & Event Planning Subcommittee 1/4/2019

- b. Industrial Hemp Exploratory Subcommittee 2/4 and 2/18/2019
2. Broadband and Advanced Technology 2/4/2019
3. Business Retention Expansion/Recruitment 2/1/2019
4. Leisure Travel 1/7 and 2/11/2019

MOTION CARRIED.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS—**

**Retail Business Design Workshops.** Aaron Backman reported the workshops have been going well. There are 18 businesses of a wide variety participating of which three-fourths are women-owned and three are diverse businesses. Connie Schmoll reported the speakers have been very well received and have been scheduled by the University of Minnesota Extension and College of Design. Each workshop has been recorded. Backman and Schmoll reported on the various workshops that have been held. Sarah Swedburg reported coaching sessions will allow the participants an opportunity to dig deeper into the material being presented for their individual businesses. Participants have given positive feedback and collaborative conversations are being held between the businesses. There are two workshops and coaching sessions remaining. The workshops have been held at Bremer Bank, Willmar Public Library and will be at WORKUP. The fee was \$250 and all participants received some type of scholarship.

**Willmar Child Care Center Update.** Schmoll reported the EDC closed on its loan to the Willmar Child Care Center. Southwest Initiative Foundation will close once it receives documents relative to renovation of the building. An outdoor sign has been installed. The Center will have room for 90 children. Schmoll reported the county childcare leadership group continues to work. The YMCA chose the Green Lake Mall for its Spicer location and it will have room for 90 children. Plans are for the center to open this summer. The YMCA is also planning a childcare for infants and toddlers with 60 spaces to be located within a Willmar church. Backman gave an update on a proposed senior housing facility being planned for New London that may include a childcare center for 60 children. Schmoll reported the county group is hearing from childcare providers and Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services, who have thanked the group for working on a solution to childcare needs in the county.

**Business Visits and Meetings.** Backman reported he and other Highway 23 Coalition members testified before the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee in St. Cloud. Donna Boonstra reported the majority of the testimony at the hearing was on the Northstar Metro Transit. Backman and Schmoll met with a housing developer from Sioux Falls, who is interested in doing a mixed-use housing using Opportunity Zones. The Highway 23 Coalition will hold its annual membership meeting Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at The 400 Club Restaurant & Lounge. The West Central Area Job Fair will be held March 26<sup>th</sup> at Ridgewater College from 12 to 5:00 p.m. There are close to 60 vendors registered with 8 being new to the Job Fair. Schmoll noted the task now is to get job seekers to attend. Schmoll reported the Ag Committee formed a subcommittee to explore processing industrial hemp. The Kandiyohi County Sheriff attended the subcommittee's last meeting and will continue to give oversight. Charles Levine, a grower and processor from Waconia

also attended and is seeking additional growers. Levine is processing oil for vegetables and feed. Schmoll will be attending a Canada food show with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Schmoll reported on business visits from her written report (see attached).

**NEW BUSINESS**—There was no new business.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next board meeting is **11:00 a.m., Thursday, April 11, 2019.**

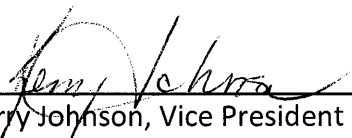
**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no further business,

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:46 a.m.

  
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Art Benson, Secretary

APPROVED: 4/11/2019:

  
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Kerry Johnson, Vice President



**Joint Operations Board Meeting  
Connie Schmoll Report  
March 14, 2019**

**Child Care**

Members of the Kandiyohi County Child Care Innovation Project are in the process of narrowing down the ideas generated at the Community Conversation that took place on November 29, 2018.

The core group formed subgroups to lead the project tasks. Project task groups are working on the creation of SMART goals in each area. The main goals decided on for continued processing include:

- Goal 1 – Diversity/Mentoring
- Goal 2 – Training opportunities locally
- Goal 3 - Identifying and accessing capital
- Goal 4 – Business support and legislation

In addition, a member announced that a new daycare center is being considered by the YMCA and other volunteers and will be located in Spicer. Three other childcare centers are under consideration, one specifically for infants and toddlers.

The EDC closed on its loan to the Willmar Child Care Center L.L.C. on March 5, 2019.

**Business Meetings and Events**

1. Childcare Core Group Meeting
2. Industrial Hemp Exploratory Subcommittee
3. Retail Design Workshops
4. Planning with DEED representative, Elise Buchan, on SIAL Canada Food Show
5. Meeting with new representative for EDC marketing, Lindsey Donner

**Business Visits**

1. Planning with start-up restaurant
2. Planning with start-up food sales and distribution
3. Planning with spa business start-up
4. Planning with homecare business start-up
5. Site search for three different light manufacturing/sales businesses
6. Planning with plumbing and heating business
7. Planning with Willmar Child Care Center L.L.C.
8. Accessories 4 Trucks
9. Appliance and Home Center of Willmar
10. Follow-up with participants of Retail Design Workshops
11. New London Food Coop membership promotion