

**Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2005**  
**Radisson Hotel**  
**4:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**

Qusi Al-Haj	Ward Cheney	Bob DeMersseman	Marcia Elkins
Owen Emme	Steve Flanery	Terri Haverly	Gale Holbrook
Dirk Jablonski	Kip Larson	Jim Pahl	Don Patnoe
Gloria Pluimer	Loni Reichert	Chuck Ruch	Rick Rylance
Fred Thurston			

Guest: Bob Knecht

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Flanery called the meeting to order and welcomed to the board new Ad-Hoc members Dirk Jablonski, Public Works Director, and Marcia Elkins, Growth Management Director,

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the December meeting were previously emailed. Owen motioned for approval of the minutes. Mirehouse seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Larson reported on the December financials. Board members were previously provided with copies of the balance sheet and profit and loss. Last years financials included a matching grant for the Air Service Task Force. Overall expenses for the year are down.

**IV. NATIONAL UNDERGROUND LABORATORY**

Ruch reported the laboratory process continues and the authority has held meetings with the scientists. At this time it looks like there are eight to nine locations putting together proposals to compete for the site of the underground laboratory. These proposals are due in February. The National Science Foundation will then announce the selection of one, two, or three sites that will then move on to round two that involves a more specific proposal. The laboratory is still several years away. Black Hills Vision also has a close working relationship with the authority. It was suggested to invite the authority director, Dave Snider, to one of the next Partnership board meetings.

**V. BUSINESS INCUBATOR**

DeMersseman reported the paper work has been completed and approved by the Governor's office on the State's \$500,000 funding for the incubator. The Requests for Qualifications have been advertised twice in the Rapid City Journal. The deadline for Design Build Teams to submit their qualifications is January 27, 2005. From these requests, companies will be approved and okayed to review the Request for Proposal and submit their bids on the project. At this time, we have five to six companies interested in bidding on the 30,000 square foot facility. A planning meeting for the incubator facility is scheduled to be held at the SDSM&T for the purpose of brainstorming items needed in the RFP before it is provided to the qualified bidders.

**VI. BLACK HILLS VISION**

Flanery reported Battelle has returned to the Black Hills area for a second round of interviews. They will be traveling to Black Hills State University as wells as other surrounding cities. The campaign has reached \$2.9 million, a figure that includes pending pledges, and comes close to reaching the first goal of \$3 million.

**VII. WESTERN RESEARCH ALLIANCE**

Haverly reported the board would be meeting on Monday, January 31, to plan an Inventor's Congress for possibly April 23, 2005.

**VIII. PROSPECT REPORT**

DeMersseman reported we are waiting to hear from a local financial services company on their expansion into the former Conseco facility. Meetings were held with a local health company who may also be interested in leasing part of that facility. We are working with Black Hills Vision and the SDSM&T on a prospect in the nanotechnology industry. The initial opportunity involves providing unique integrated circuit failure analysis services to the semiconductor industry. The Spherix expansion was dependent on a government contract they were unable to secure resulting in a delay of any expansions at this time.

#### IX. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

##### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Al-Haj, Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, stated he is also the Director of the West River Field Office for Senator John Thune. The local office is still in the process of getting set up. Senator Thune has recently been elected to serve on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee as well as Armed Services, Veteran's Affairs and Environment and Public Works.

#### X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Flanery stated planning would continue on ideas for updating the long term planning process for Economic Development and the need to be ready to move forward in development. Flanery added he would continue to work with the 2005 Chairman Larson and outgoing board member Jim Lampy on this process.

##### B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER

Mirehouse reported the Small Business Development Center is extending their business planning to be able to further assist businesses. The center has Revolving Loan Funds available for approved projects. Genesis is in the process of its second fund drive although some funding still exists from the first round. Genesis will continue to work with startup companies and hope to discover prospects through the Western Research Alliance's Inventor's Congress this spring.

##### C. SCORE

Cheney announced he is the new District Manager for the SCORE offices. In the last quarter they have provided 65 hours of face to face counseling, 66 hours of e-mailing, and 1,026 other hours including meetings and paperwork. Knecht added the chapter currently has 55 members most of who are in existing businesses. SCORE is conducting a new membership drive and working on new training programs for SCORE counselors.

#### XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ruch brought up three Board of Regents issues related to economic development that he felt the board might want to support. They include the FTE's, the Opportunities Scholarship Program, and the Governor's Budget. Mirehouse suggested the board become more proactive and possibly call appropriate legislators regarding these items. Al-Haj also suggested a good presence at the next cracker barrel. Ruch agreed to gather information on specific bills with talking points and provide the information to DeMersseman. The Board also agreed a letter should be sent from the Partnership. Flanery recognized the outgoing board members and thanked them for their help and support of economic development.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager