

Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2005
Civic Center, Room #207
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Greg Bartron	Malcom Chapman	Ward Cheney	Bob DeMersseman
Marcia Elkins	Owen Emme	Bill Gikling	Terri Haverly
David Hillard	Gale Holbrook	Debra Jensen	Kip Larson
Jim McKeon	Karen Olson	Jim Pahl	Don Patnoe
Gloria Pluimer	Loni Reichert	Rick Rylance	Dave Schmidt
Fred Thurston			

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January meeting were previously emailed. Emme motioned for approval of the minutes. Pahl seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Gikling provided the January financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. The city is providing its funding on a monthly basis this year versus last year's quarterly funding. Cash on hand is approximately \$350,000 and current assets are at \$472,241. The financials also reflect the majority of membership dues, which are billed out in January.

IV. NATIONAL UNDERGROUND LABORATORY

DeMersseman reported Dave Snider, Authority Director, reported their economic development strategy at this time to develop the laboratory to the 4,800-foot level, which provides a better environment and will prove to be better competition. This would also avoid the water level issue until they are ready to develop the laboratory to a deeper level. He feels the earliest possibility of operation of the mine would be 2008. Rylance added the cost for operation of the mine at the 4,800-foot level would be approximately \$1 million a year. Representative Stephanie Herseith has been asked to investigate the possibility of the government using part of the laboratory for storage, which would generate income for the operational expenses of the lab.

V. BUSINESS INCUBATOR

DeMersseman reported all funding is in place. A total of five design teams have been qualified to receive the Request for Proposal on the facility. The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology is providing IT information to be included in the RFP's; once that information is received the RFP's will be provided to the qualified teams. The goal is to have the RFP's out by Friday of this week. The teams will then have 60 days to submit their proposals. The Economic Development Foundation board will then hold a meeting to give the teams the opportunity to present their proposals. The proposals will then be evaluated and a Design Build Team will be chosen for the construction of the facility.

VI. BLACK HILLS VISION

Larson reported Mark Merchen, Black Hills Vision, has created a Power Point presentation to be presented to the Economic Development 2012 committee that shows the Economic Development Partnership's relationship to Black Hills Vision. The 2012 committee has been established to provide their input to the city council on how the next round of 2012 monies should be distributed. The presentation will hopefully

provide answers the committee has raised. The same presentation will be provided to the board at a future board meeting.

VII. WESTERN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Haverly reported the board met the end of January to continue work on the organization of an Inventors Congress to be held in June. Haverly is currently working on developing a Request for Inventions form. The congress will not be open for presentations in all fields and may be limited more to the electronics field. Gary Archambault, SBIR, will be funding a reception on the evening prior to the Saturday events. The Partnership board members are encouraged to attend.

VIII. PROSPECT REPORT

Larson reported we are still anticipating the announcement on a local expansion in Rapid City. We are also waiting to receive information from Battelle to integrate into our strategic planning. Legislative work regarding legislation to exempt business incubators from property taxes failed to come together this legislative session, but will be pursued for next year's session.

IX. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Olsen reported the council is looking at their long-term vision for the city's economic development including water and sewer issues. Dirk Jablonski, the new Public Works Director, would like to submit his input as to what development could be done in house and what work outside contractors should be hired for. Schmidt questioned what economic development could do to develop more of a link with the city to improve money incentives to prospective prospects who we are losing out to due to the money side of it? Discussion was held on this question. The idea was brought up to have economic development present prospect successes and failures to the city about companies we are working with. Providing reasons for losing out on a prospect would help the city council identify ways to help provide the incentives needed to capture a prospect. Also, providing the city council with reports that show what kind of impact the prospect would have on the city would help them see the advantages of winning that prospect. Another idea would be to consider narrowing the focus on prospects allowing us to focus more on all resources needed to leverage assets and make a more effective proposal to the prospect.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

Holbrook reported on two items related to economic development including the increase in Tax Incremental Districts being formed in the county. He invited all board members to an informational TIF meeting being presented by Marcia Elkins, Growth Management, next Tuesday, March 1. Second, the Real Estate Assessment Notices will be going out to all property owners in March with public hearings to follow.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

No report given.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

No report given.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

Pluimer reported they are using a software package with an office-testing program that enables them to test individuals for job openings. The city and the sheriff's offices have both contacted the center for testing of interested applicants. The center also has an Advisory Board which will hold panel discussions regarding construction trade areas the future work force will be in need of.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McKeon thanked those for attended the mid year reports. Business Day at the Legislature is February 17, with room available on the bus for anyone interested in attending. Saturday, February 19, will be a special crackerbarrel for Governor Rounds beginning at 3:00.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Covered under other agenda items.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Bartron reported their loan fund has been in operation since 1998 with total management of project funds to date totaling approximately \$10 million. The center is considering a couple large projects in Hot Springs and a transloading facility to be located just outside of Box Elder. The center is also working on a CDFI application to lend funds to development corps. and with hotel developers on funds from the 504 program. DeMersseman added Genesis is beginning the process of raising \$2 million for their second round of funding. He encouraged anyone interested in participating to contact Jim Mirehouse for a presentation.

C. SCORE

Ward reported January is their slowest month. The center had 14 hours face to face counseling, 48 hours of follow up, 14 new email cases and a total of 291 volunteer hours. SCORE will be marketing their services by having booths at the annual Black Hills Regional Job Fair and the April, Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Expo.

XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Patnoe reported the meeting with Representative Stephanie Herseth and the economic development boards went very well. Haverly passed out biographical data forms for the board to fill out and then encouraged them to fax back to the office at 343-1916.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager