

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

PRESENT:

Malcom Chapman	Ward Cheney	Bob DeMersseman	Owen Emme
Bill Gikling	Terri Haverly	Dirk Jablonski	Jim McKeon
Karen Olson	Gale Holbrook	Debra Jensen	Kip Larson
Jim McKeon	Jim Pahl	Gloria Pluimer	Loni Reichert
Charles Ruch	Rick Rylance	Dave Schmidt	Fred Thurston

Guest: Sandy Massey, Senator Thune's Office

Guest Speaker: Mark Merchen

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the February meeting were previously emailed. Thurston motioned for approval of the minutes. Pluimer seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Gikling provided the February financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. Income as of the end of February totaled \$71, 957.84 and expenses totaled \$47, 859. 38. The entity seems to be in good shape without any large outstanding bills. Rylance motioned for approval of the financials. Thurston seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

DeMersseman introduced Mark Merchen, West River Electric and Black Hills Vision, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on economic development terminology, the history in Rapid City, collaborative organizations and future opportunities. The purpose was to lead into a discussion to formalize a message and get the word out about economic development. It was proposed to establish a Rapid City Economic Development Communications and Public Awareness Joint Task Force. Proposed membership would consist of:

Joint Chairs Committee

- Membership - Chairs or President of each of the sponsors (Partnership, Rapid Fund, Foundation, WRA, SDSM&T)
- Spokesman – appointed by the Joint Chairs
- Meetings attended by Staff and Spokesman
- Joint Chairs approve message and schedule for events, materials, etc.

Communications Committee

- Members – number and participants determined and appointed by the Joint Chairs

Potential Public Presentations

- Rapid City Council Quarterly Updates
- Pennington County Regular Updates
- Rapid City Journal Editorial Board

- Quarterly Economic Development Crackerbarrel
- Other events as approved by the Joint Chairs Committee

Owen motioned the Rapid City Economic Development Partnership board formally endorse the formation of a Rapid City Economic Development Communications and Public Awareness Joint Task Force. Rylance seconded. All Approved. Motion Carried.

Olson suggested doing this presentation immediately prior to the City Council meeting on April 18, possibly beginning at 6:30 p.m. She will check with the city council to see if this would be possible.

V. NATIONAL UNDERGROUND LABORATORY

Ruch reported the first round of proposals have been submitted to the National Science Foundation. Proposals have been submitted from five to seven other locations including Canada. The next step will be for the National Science Foundation to select the few proposals to be considered for the next more competitive round of proposals. The science budget in Washington is becoming very tight due to the fact that National Science Foundation dollars are being moved to fund the NASA projects.

VI. BUSINESS INCUBATOR

DeMersseman reported five design build teams are working on the Request for Proposal, which are due April 14. Once the proposals are submitted, the Foundation board along with representation from the Partnership board will meet to select the design build team for construction of the incubator. Dr. Ruch added the contract has been signed to clear the site of the facility.

VII. BLACK HILLS VISION

Merchen reported the goal of \$3 million has been reached. The board recently passed a Letter of Support to formally encourage the Rapid City Mayor, City Council, and its 2012 Committees to fully support the concept of the 2012 Opportunity Capture Future Fund. This resource will be an important contributor to the Black Hills region capturing Technology Corridor opportunities. Black Hills Vision has also approved \$500,000 in funding to help with the operations of the business incubator.

VIII. WESTERN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Haverly reported information is being circulated referring individuals to the Western Research Alliance Foundation web site for more information on the Inventor's Congress. The deadline for the one page application had been set for April 1, but has now been extended to the end of April following the SDSM&T Senior Design Fair. The focus will be on inventions that are characterized as electromechanical. Other inventions will be considered.

IX. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported he and Haverly recently met with a local Fortune 100 company. The company is finalizing details on a contract that will result in a major expansion in Rapid City. Announcement of the company's expansion will be made once the contract is finalized. Work continues with three local companies considering expansions. We are currently working with the city and state on funding for the nano manipulator to be housed at the new CAAN Center on SDSM&T-one of the Governor's newly established Centers of Excellence.

X. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Olson along with the Mayor, and Chapman recently met with our congressional delegation with discussion on South Dakota and specifically Rapid City's future needs. An item of concern is the proposal to move funding for the Community Development Block Grant to the Department of Commerce, which generally results in the depletion of those dollars. The city is beginning a planning process on infrastructure and how it affects economic development and the business community. The

process will include planning on water and sewer issues. Olson stated after visiting RPM in the Rushmore Business Park and hearing of their problems with the lack of water in the business park she realizes the importance of basic infrastructure to keep companies in Rapid City. She also reported President Bush is in the process of nominating individuals to be Members of the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Chapman has visited with individuals regarding Ellsworth and has not heard any negative talk about its closure.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

No report given.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

Ruch reported the university and the Board of Regents are awaiting the conclusion of this year's legislative session. Next year's budget for the Board of Regents is very important for SDSM&T continuation of the opportunities scholarships program. The HEF budget, also being watched closely, lays out their ten-year budget for all construction projects on campus. The legislature will also be voting on approving a budget for a Nano PHd course at Tech. Everyone is invited to the ribbon cutting to open the West River Higher Education Center on Wednesday, March 23. This will also be the last Regents meeting for Pat Lebrun. The campus is operating one of the few supersonic wind tunnels located in the Mechanical Engineering building. Also, the new football coach has arrived and is busy recruiting.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Haverly reported Dr. Gross has invited her to attend cabinet meetings at WDTI, similar to the meetings being held at the SDSM&T. Haverly feels this will fit into the public awareness program being considered by economic development.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

Pluimer reported their Advisory Board would be meeting March 17, with panel discussion immediately following on the construction trade and needed workforce training in those areas. Representation from several local area construction companies will be on hand to present their concerns and needs for the future workforce. The next round of discussions will focus on the medical fields. Ruch agreed with the importance of such meetings and the need to address the workforce needs. The center was also notified by Sodak Gaming in regard for their plan to lay off 150 employees out of 175 by September 2005.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McKeon reported the Chamber would be holding a minority business seminar sponsored by the Culture Affairs Committee on April 12, followed that evening by the Business to Business Expo. Bruce Rapelberg and Pat McElgunn continue to follow reports from BRAC, and are encouraged from the discussions they are hearing. The closure list will be released on May 16. The airport will be announcing a summer flight to Chicago by United Airlines. The Black Hills communities are contracting with Riverband books for the creation of a new coffee table book titled "Black Hills Beyond all Expectations".

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Schmidt invited the board to the SDSM&T on March 24, to attend a major economic development announcement from Governor Rounds.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Cheney reported the center is seeing a lot of activity from individuals taking advantage of the free resources the center provides for public use.

C. SCORE

Cheney reported face-to-face follow-ups totaled 38 hours in the month of February. Currently a survey is being conducted to see if individuals are satisfied with the help they are receiving from the center. Approximately 70 people have expressed an interest in becoming a SCORE volunteer. Several symposiums will be held in the center to provide the new volunteers with information on the SCORE program.

XII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ruch announced the SDSM&T Annual Convocation will be held April 28. This year honorees include Mike Derby and Mark Merchen for their accomplishments with Black Hills Vision.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager