

**Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2005**  
**Civic Center, Room #207**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:**

Greg Bartron	Malcom Chapman	Bob DeMersseman	Owen Emme
Bill Gikling	Terri Haverly	David Hillard	Dirk Jablonski
Debra Jensen	Kip Larson	Jim McKeon	Karen Olson
Gloria Pluimer	Loni Reichert	Dr.Charles Ruch	Rick Rylance
Mayor Jim Shaw	Fred Thurston		

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the March meeting were previously emailed. Larson and Jensen were wrongly recorded in attendance of that meeting. Emme motioned for approval of the minutes once Larson and Jensen are removed from attendance. Rylance seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Gikling provided the March financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. Income as of March 31 is \$114,567 and expenses are within budget and close to last year's figures.

**IV. SENIOR DESIGN FAIR**

Haverly reported economic development is promoting this year's SDSM&T Senior Design Fair on Tuesday, April 26. A luncheon with student presentations is being hosted for the economic development boards, committee, and business community.

**V. BUSINESS INCUBATOR**

Larson reported the five design build teams have submitted their proposals for the business incubator. All five presentations look great with at least three coming in at or below budget. The teams are being provided the opportunity to do presentations to the business incubator selection committee on next Monday and Tuesday. Thursday, April 28, the selection committee will again meet to complete the weighted evaluation score sheet for each proposal and make their recommendation to the Foundation board. The Foundation board will hold a board meeting immediately following the selection committee to select the winning proposal.

**VI. BLACK HILLS VISION**

DeMersseman reported Battelle attended the last board meeting and presented information from the initial study they conducted on platforms needed to develop our expanding tech-based economic development and technology corridor. They discussed considering funds for the South Dakota Technology Authority to develop a business plan for the underground lab at the 4,800-foot level. This would make it possible to engage in contracts with the government and create income prior to the decision on the underground laboratory. If this were to happen, one of Black Hills Vision's platforms would need to be dropped and a change would need to be made in the scope of work. This business plan would differ from the National Science Foundation plan, which is to develop the site into a national underground laboratory.

VII. WESTERN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Haverly stated several very good inventions have been submitted for the Inventor's Congress to be held on June 25. Proposals will be accepted until the Senior Design Fair is over. A June 24 reception is planned with invitations being sent to investors, venture capital firms etc.

VIII. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported we are still very close to an announcement on the expansion of a local Fortune 100 Company. The company is waiting for talks to finish between lawyers. The Governor has been contacted and will be involved in the announcement. Entry-level jobs will start around \$8.00 per hour with benefits and the average wage around \$11.50 per hour. We are working with a distinguished graduate from the SDSM&T and microbiologist who is considering a startup company in South Dakota. A hosting is planned for next Friday, April 29. A conference call is planned with a company that is developing a multi wall carbon nanotube remote sensor for hazardous materials. Verifications, a lower end call center hosted in the past, is relooking at Rapid City after North Dakota did not work out.

IX. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Shaw thanked those involved in the economic development presentation to the city council last Monday night. He stated the presentation was very well put together and clearly explained the economic development process. He encouraged the board to think of possibly doing an annual presentation. The 2012 committees have made their recommendations to the council including a recommendation of \$5 million toward economic development activities. A four-person city council committee has been formed to review the 2012-committee's recommendations and decide on the projects appropriate for the new round of funding to recommend for full city council approval.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

No report given

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

Ruch encouraged the board to attend the Senior Design Fair on the 26<sup>th</sup> in support of the students. Future fairs will focus more on moving projects to commercialization and tying into the SBIR programs. Olsen suggested the university's APEX group take their bridge building projects into the elementary, middle and possibly even high schools to encourage students in science education. Ruch added their summer engineering camp creates a lot of interest and would like help in promoting it. Haverly stated she has plans to meet with Ms. Anderson from SDSM&T to discuss what we can do to promote programs such as these.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

No report given.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

Pluimer reported the center receives their funding from the federal Department of Labor and is beginning to feel the budget pinch. The center is reviewing how they do business and how they can grow higher education. She would like to promote women becoming more involved in science and engineering. Chapman added Cheryl Chapman recently did a presentation at Ellsworth Air Force Base during Women's History Month with the focus on science engineering and math and encourages implementing this more at the school level.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McKeon thanked those for supporting the Chamber fundraiser on April 16. A German contingent will be visiting the area on April 25 and interested board members were invited to attend a breakfast Monday, April 25 from 8:30-10:30. The State of Local Governments luncheon will be held Monday, April 26 beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Chamber is starting a new Chamber Golf Classic on June 6, with a corporate and open division. The Chamber Board retreat will be held May 11-15 in Las Vegas, NV.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Larson reported most business was covered under other agenda items. Larson, DeMersseman and Haverly attended the Governors Office of Economic Development conference in Pierre. Work will begin on the budget process for next year. He introduced an idea of the board holding economic development informational breakfast or luncheons meetings. The idea would be to have each board member be in charge of inviting individuals to attend an informative meeting on economic development. More discussion will follow at next months board meeting.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Bartron reported spring is a very busy time for the center especially regarding their loan portfolios. At this time they continue work with Hot Springs, Deadwood, Boulder Canyon, Hill City, Belle Fourche, Midland, Rapid City, Spearfish and Custer. They continue to work with Lon Hubbard on a transload facility in Box Elder. He agreed that we were presented with five great proposals on the business incubator and happy to be a part of the selection committee. The center is looking at becoming involved in a new statewide market tax credit program. He added Jim Mirehouse, Genesis Equity Fund, is looking for investors for the second round of investing in the amount of \$25,000.

C. SCORE

Bartron reported for the month of March, SCORE had 130 hours of face to face counseling, telephone and email. Other volunteer hours that include meetings, travel to client's sites, work in getting ready for counseling sessions, workshops, etc., totaled 305.

XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Jensen reported a group is seeking assistance from the Main Street Trust to create a plan for redevelopment on Mt. Rushmore Road. Pluimer recognized and congratulated Karen Olson for being recognized as one of the Girl Scouts Women of Distinction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager