

Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2005
Civic Center, Room #207
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Greg Bartron	Ward Cheney	Bob DeMersseman	David Emery
Owen Emme	Bill Gikling	Terri Haverly	Kip Larson
Jim McKeon	Karen Olson	Gloria Pluimer	Loni Reichert
Rick Rylance			

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May meeting were previously emailed. Rylance motioned for approval of the minutes. Gikling seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Gikling provided the May financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. Income as of May 31 is \$160,274 expenses are \$116,402 with the savings account up 25%. Rylance stated the possible base closure could affect our expenses through long-term economic development. Larson stated those expenditures would be monitored with board approval.

IV. BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Haverly reported the Rapid City Economic Development Foundation has scheduled Thursday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m. for the groundbreaking of the business incubator. Invitations have been sent to the Mayor, Governor, GOED, Congressional Delegation, Boards, SDSM&T, and Chamber of Commerce. FiberCom will be meeting today with Haverly, Bartron and Jim Mirehouse regarding the phone system. Monday a meeting is scheduled with the contractors to discuss specifics in regard to the selection of building design and colors.

V. ELLSWORTH

DeMersseman reported Black Hills Vision is in the process of developing a Track II Reuse Plan to be in place if the base remains on the BRAC closure list. Black Hills Corporation has offered the 8th floor of their building to be used for office space with this effort. West River Electric and Black Hills Corporation have also offered personnel to focus on this project they are Mark Merchen and Mutch Usera. McKeon reported the BRAC hearings are scheduled for June 21 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Arena. He provided the board with information on the days events and the process that will follow after the visit from the BRAC committee. Information will be provided on the BRAC hearings and forwarded by email to all economic development boards.

VI. BLACK HILLS VISION

DeMersseman reported the board is currently focusing on developing the Reuse Plan. A meeting was also held with an individual the SDSM&T has retained as a consultant. She is developing strategy that will be used for multi state research strategies and research projects.

VII. WESTERN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Haverly reported a reception would be held on June 24 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel for the first Western Research Alliance Inventor's Congress. The Congress will follow on June 25 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the SDSM&T. Board members were encouraged to attend.

VIII. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported GE Finance is working on the press release for the July 13 ribbon cutting. The company required a first right of refusal on adjoining property for the possibility of future expansion, which is a positive sign. The company is planning on moving into the facility next week. NOVA has also signed a five-year lease on the old Casto Travel building. The company manufactures and distributes gaming devices. This should help ease the layoffs taking place at SODAK Gaming.

IX. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Olson reported the city is taking a serious look at the current 2012 projects and changes may need to be made to keep growth a key due to the possible closure of Ellsworth Air Force Base. The city would also like to remain proactive with Box Elder, the county, and the state on the redevelopment plan for Ellsworth.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

No report provided.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

No report provided.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

No report provided.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

Pluimer reported the center is working in conjunction with Western Dakota Technical Institute on the development of new programs. Grant application is also being made by the Department of Labor for the purpose of dealing with displacement. The Medical Advisory Board met and held panel discussion on employee needs in the medical office industry. Rapid City Regional Hospital indicates they do not feel the affects of the nursing shortage across the nation due to the many different classes offered in the area.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DeMersseman reported the Chamber of Commerce is promoting publication of an updated Black Hills Official Book and has contacted economic development to consider sponsoring space in it. He will meet with McKeon to discuss the details and report back to the board for a decision on participation of that project.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Larson reported the SDSM&T would be holding a 5-year all school reunion on July 6,7 and 8. Economic Development will be setting up a booth during the function to visit with alumni. Volunteers interested in helping man the booth can email the office for date and times.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Bartron reported he along with Julie Gregg, Mutch Usera, and Mark Merchen attended the 2005 NAID Conference which is a conference on community redevelopment after a base closure. He added a lot of good information was provided and he is in the process of contacting the other three attendees to meet and discuss the information they received.

C. SCORE

Cheney reported the office continues to stay busy. They are meeting with four individuals in charge of buying and selling base housing. They have gained 28 new members in the past three months. The Chapter will be receiving an award for meeting the criteria for their number of woman members. South Dakota will be adding four new SCORE Chapters across the state.

XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Pluimer questioned how to find out what Black Hills Vision is actually doing in regard to the Reuse Plan? DeMersseman suggested we contact Mark Merchen for a presentation to the board at next month's meeting. The board was in agreement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager