

Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2005
Civic Center, Room #207
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Greg Bartron	Bob DeMersseman	David Emery	Steve Flanery
Bill Gikling	Rich Gross	Deb Hadcock	Terri Haverly
Gale Holbrook	Debra Jensen	Kip Larson	Jim McKeon
Bill Okrepkie	Karen Olson	Loni Reichert	Rick Rylance
Dave Schmidt			

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Gikling provided the August financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. Total income is \$260,478.06, expenses of \$182,249.51 with a net income of \$78,228.55. Budgets have been submitted to both the city and county. Larson reported is has been requested by the City Council that the Partnership place its board minutes and financials on the Economic Development and city websites. Discussion followed. The board decided against this noting this information is already provided monthly to the City Council and County Commissioners. The public and private sectors may contact DeMersseman at the Economic Development office who will provide any information appropriate to their request. Schmidt approved the financials as presented. Rylance seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. MAGNET AWARD

Larson reported Genesis Equity Fund, LLC and Tech Ventures, Inc. will be awarded the 2005 Magnet Award at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

V. N2TEC

DeMersseman reported N2TEC is the National Network for Technology Entrepreneurship and Commercialization. One of the goals is to develop a technology industry cluster in the Black Hills region. The region has been working to create an environment and support infrastructure that will encourage and help technology entrepreneurs and existing companies in the region to start, grow, and expand by exploiting new scientific and technical innovations. N2TEC Partners attended workshops and tours of Black Hills communities on September 9th and 10th with the goal of identifying problems and opportunities for the local N2TEC Teams to address. The Rapid City N2TEC Team includes Bill Gikling, Jim Mirehouse, Bob DeMersseman, Kip Larson, Dave Crabb, Paul Gnirk, and Paul Thorstenson who all attended those same workshops.

VI. AIRPORT AUTHORITY DISCUSSION

Larson reported at the August board meeting Mason Short, from the Rapid City Regional Airport, presented information of the development of an Airport Authority. The board was asked to consider a resolution in support of the Airport Authority. After meeting and discussing this resolution the Executive Board is in favor of adopting a resolution in support of the Airport Authority. Jensen stated after discussions with others she would have to vote against the resolution. Holbrook added the County Commissioners previously voted in opposition of the Authority but he now feels in support of it. Schmidt

motioned to adopt a resolution in support of the Airport Authority. Gikling seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the resolution except Jensen voting against. Motion carried.

VII. BUSINESS INCUBATOR

DeMersseman reported Kurtz Construction is ready to pour the floor of the incubator and the construction schedule is right on track. Haverly is waiting for bids to come in on the telecommunications and phone systems. SDSM&T has offered to provide IT services and the Rapid City Economic Development Foundation board has agreed on the purchase of presentation and video conferencing equipment. The Operations Sub Committee met last week to continue work on the completion of an operation, financial, and marketing plan for the incubator. The Advocacy Committee will also be rejuvenated to aid in the process of identifying mentors and service providers for the incubator. Marketing of the facility will be moving ahead with the development of a logo, website etc. Haverly is working with City Engineering on an address for the facility that is separate from the SDSM&T.

VIII. BLACK HILLS VISION

DeMersseman stated Black Hills Vision would be involved in the N2TEC Program. Flanery added Tuesday he and Emery attended the announcement of the agreement that allows the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority to take possession of certain Homestake Mine property located in Lead, S.D., and move forward with planning for an Authority-funded interim laboratory at the 4850 foot level.

IX. DISCUSSION OF BOARD EXPANSION

Larson reported in the past month the Home Builders Association and Board of Realtors have requested several discussions with Economic Development. Their feeling is they need to be more aware of economic development activities and its progress suggesting individuals from their association be placed on the Partnership Board. Larson suggested one idea for board consideration would be to pass a resolution to include members from those associations onto the Partnership Board as ex-officio members, although this would cause the Bylaws to be amended and would open up to others also wanting positions on our board. Another alternative to consider would be having the Home Builders and Board of Realtors submit a name from each of their associations to be included on the board nominees' list, which would be strongly considered and be voted on for a three-year term as all board members are selected. Discussion followed. The board was in agreement to have the associations submit names for the nomination process. It was also brought up that board meetings are open to the public and anyone may attend them at anytime. Larson asked DeMersseman to relay this information to the Board of Realtors and Home Builders Association.

X. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported there is still a great deal of call center interest. Green Tree is offering for lease 30,000 to 60,000 square feet. The large distribution center recently provided with a proposal has selected Beresford over Rapid City for their location. The state will be contacting them for the reason for their decision. The Foundation continues work with the Liens and Hoffmans on a TIF in South Creek for expansion that would extend water and sewer to join South Creek Drive and Minnesota.

XI. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Okrepkie reported the City has approved the second reading of the 2006 budget. He also added he appreciates the openness and dialogue he is able to have through DeMersseman and the Economic Development Organization. Hadcock questioned due to recent hurricanes in Louisiana if any companies could be approached about relocating to the area. Haverly stated work is being done with local companies to help identify the need for manufacturing supplies for redevelopment in those states.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

Holbrook updated the board on current county activities and thanked Hadcock and Okrepkie for attending County Commission meetings. Two issues they are focusing on are the proposal for a drink tax and the Adams Street work release facility to also house regular jail inmates. Holbrook asked to pass a petition around for signatures to place the drink tax issue on upcoming ballot. Larson offered

that anyone interested on an individual level could contact Holbrook following the board meeting for signatures.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

DeMersseman reported Dr. Ruch and Guatam Pillay have recently hired an intellectual property consultant to help in the commercialization process.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Gross reported enrollment is up 11% from last year and up 8% over a five-year period. One issue they are seeing is the lack of qualified students for available jobs. The institution is beginning evening classes in pharmacy, welding, and next year auto technology to help with job demand. Gross has been asked to serve on the board of the American Association of Community Colleges. WDTI will be holding a historical announcement on Thursday, September 22; board members were invited to attend.

Larson excused himself from the meeting handing the meeting over to Schmidt, Vice Chairman.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

No report given.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McKeon reported the Convention Visitors Bureau is busy working on conventions that were scheduled in New Orleans but due to hurricanes will need moved elsewhere. The annual meeting will be held this Saturday, September 24, with social beginning at 5:30 p.m. Ellsworth Task Force invites the public to attend an all community BRAC Celebration on Sunday, September 25. The Rapid City School Board has approved next year's school start for after Labor Day. The Chamber will continue to track the 2012 process.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Schmidt stated items were covered under other agenda items.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Bartron announced the center has hired Erika Haverly as their new administrative assistant. September has been a busy time with work in Sturgis on an expansion of a gun manufacturer, Mission on a grocery store, and three businesses in Lemmon. Two loans have just closed for the empowerment zone including a bottled water company on the reservation and a packing plant in Gordon, Nebraska.

C. SCORE

No report given.

XIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

DeMersseman reported the Rapid City Economic Development Foundation has voted to invest in two units of Genesis Equity Fund B. DeMersseman is looking for someone in economic development to replace him on the District Export Council anyone interested can contact our office. DeMersseman provided the board with copies of information from the movie industry showing what other states are doing to promote that industry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager