

Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2006
Civic Center, Room #207
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Jeff Carsrud | Ken Davis | Bob DeMersseman | David Emery |
| Bill Gikling | Rich Gross | Deb Hadcock | Terri Haverly |
| David Hillard | Debra Jensen | Karen Olson | Gloria Pluimer |
| Loni Reichert | Rick Rylance | Dave Schmidt | |

Guests: Jim Mirehouse, Julie Smoragiewicz

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order. He stated at future meetings it would be helpful to have nameplates for each attending board member. The board was in agreement. Nameplates will be provided for future meetings. Schmidt would encourage clarifying the difference between the voting and nonvoting members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Haverly provided the January financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. She provided the board with a copy of the membership report showing members who paid dues in January. This report will become part of the monthly financial report. Marketing shows the \$2,000 voted on last month sponsoring the School of Mines "Engineers Make Great Entrepreneurs" Speaker Series and Scholarship Competition. Gikling motioned for approval of the financials as presented. Hillard seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. N2TEC/CEO

DeMersseman reported work continues on the N2TEC project. The Governors Office of Economic Development has approached our office regarding the development of the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO Program). The CEO center will be lead by economic development partners and involve multiple communities and universities. They will develop an industry focused, regional or statewide approach to fostering technology-based and high-impact entrepreneurial activities, as well as recruitment of business and entrepreneurs in target industries. The Department of Tourism and State Development will seek proposals from economic development organizations wishing to participate in the program. The program would provide \$280,000 in state matching funds to economic development organizations that partner with universities to create programs supporting entrepreneurs and developing future entrepreneurs throughout the state. See attached for more information.

V. ETF New Mission Work Force Development Committee

DeMersseman reported he and Haverly have been selected as part of the newly formed Ellsworth Task Force New Mission Work Force Development Committee working on the financial services call center prospect for the base. Mirehouse stated the board should remember the goals of economic development and the actuality of this being just another call center. The data for the center is no different then the data economic development does on a daily process for other prospects. He cautioned the board that duplicating work might result in requests from the same funding sources.

VI. BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Mirehouse, CEO of the Black Hills Business Development Center, reported he and Haverly have selected companies to provide the phone and security systems and put them in touch with the construction contractors. A May 15th occupancy date is still projected. At this time no formal applications for lessee space have been received although 4 to 6 individuals have indicated a strong interest. Gikling reported that Fenske are remodeling their facility and have a clean room that may be suitable for the incubator. DeMersseman and Mirehouse will contact them to see if this would work in the incubator. The governance of the center will be conducted via representative operating committees that report through the CEO and Board of Directors. Rick Rylance and Bill Gikling have agreed to serve on these committees as representation for the Partnership.

VII. WEBSITE

Haverly reported she is in the process of redoing the economic development website. Western Research Alliance will be included on this website and a separate website will be developed for the business incubator at blackhillsbiz.com.

VIII. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported work continues with three local hi-tech startup companies needing early stage funding from Genesis, the Ellsworth Financial Services Company, Dr. Swartz, and a couple manufacturing companies. He asked the board to consider economic development to providing \$5,000 to market Casper and Gillette, Wyoming. Both these cities have received extreme business growth over the last several years and it may be a good time to market Rapid City. We are currently working with two companies interested in the Welding program at WDTI. Gikling motioned the Partnership spend up to \$5,000 to market the Casper and Gillette, Wyoming areas. Carsrud seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

IX. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Gunderson commented on resources for expanding the 0.16 Fund, a revolving loan, for utility improvements, infrastructure, and funding for new development. The Hiway 16 project is moving forward as are several retail projects including Walmart. Hadcock encouraged board members to attend a Downtown Area Mixer to be held on February 22nd, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at Prairie Edge, and become involved in revitalizing the downtown area. She added the Public Works Department along with the City are working on the cities water issues.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

Davis reported things are running smoothly. The Chamber of Commerce will be holding a rope cutting for the Public Safety Building on March 20th.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

Julie Smoragiewicz, SDSM&T, presented the report for Dr. Ruch who was out of town. A press conference will be held next week in support of Black Hills Vision and the N2TEC Program. The university is working on workshops to be held on campus through Black Hills Vision and Boeing. More information will be provided later in the week. Engineers' week will be held the week of February 20 through February 24.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

WDTI sponsored the monthly Chamber of Commerce mixer for February and thanked all those who were in attendance. Over the next year the institute will be in the process of redesigning the Business Industry Training program and is considering the implementation of a mining tech program. The March agenda will include about a 15-minute slot for Dr. Gross to update the board on this program. DeMersseman thanked Dr. Gross for the institute's major role with recent prospects interested in students from their programs.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

Pluimer stated some of their funding has been cut and at this time the center is busy writing grants.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No report given.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Schmidt deferred the report to DeMersseman who stated most items were covered under other topics. The 2012 Opportunity Capture Fund has been approved but contact will be made to go over some unclear items. The incubator property tax legislation has passed through the house. Mirehouse and Haverly will travel to Pierre on Friday for testimony before the Senate Taxation Committee. Harry Christianson and the Sioux Falls contingent have been working the legislation. Davis reported Pennington County is in support of this legislation. Haverly will forward the talking points to Ernie Haycraft who will provide them to Ron Buskerud in Pierre. DeMersseman indicated the April agenda would include a presentation by the film industry.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Mirehouse reported these offices would also be moving into the incubator. Genesis Fund B had several intended investors back. Money will be refunded to intended investors and Fund B will not move forward.

C. SCORE

No report given.

XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Gunderson asked the board to follow ballot issue Amendment E (JAIL) that would amend the constitution and encouraged the board to be in opposition. Schmidt stated the board would consider a resolution possibly at the April board meeting. Rylance reported the Governor's 2010 Initiative meeting has been rescheduled for Rapid City in March. Haverly reminded the board the South Dakota Career Center would be holding an Open House February 16, from 3:00-6:00. Schmidt asked the board to submit any ideas they may have for future speakers etc. for upcoming board meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager