

**Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2007
Black Hills Business Development Center
10:00 a.m.**

PRESENT:

John Carlson	Jeff Carsrud	Bob DeMersseman	Dr. Monte Dirks
Bill Gikling	Deb Hadcock	Terri Haverly	David Hillard
Gale Holbrook	Greg Hunter	Jim McKeon	Jim Pahl
Loni Reichert	Rick Rylance	Mayor Jim Shaw	Mark Thies
Nancy Trautman			

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Gikling called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financials were previously emailed to the board for review. Hillard reported the Profit and Loss for January reflects other income for the Partnership includes administration a HUD Tech Transfer Grant for the SDSM&T and a NOAA Grant for the Western Research Alliance. The expense side reflects a large decrease in fees which in 2006 was paid to the Chamber of Commerce for lease space, the rent expense now reflects payments made to the Black Hills Business Development Center. Hillard contacted US Bank regarding the interest rate currently paid on the savings account and requested changing it from .4% to 4% which should result in an additional \$12 to \$13 thousand per year in interest earned. Carsrud motioned to approve the financials as presented. Pahl seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. BLACK HILLS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Haverly reported the center is currently negotiating with 2 companies considering occupancy in the incubator. The first company is working with carbon sequestration and the second company is a software engineering company currently located in Mitchell. Evans & Sutherland has hired its first new employee who is a SDSM&T graduate.

V. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported work continues with Wallace Tang who is considering the incubator for space for a pilot plant for systems used in the artillery. He is working with the Department of Defense on funding. Phase Technologies has begun construction of its 10,000 sq. /ft. building in the Rushmore Business Park. Tri Tech will also begin construction of its building next to Phase Technologies. FAB, a bioengineering pilot project, will have contacts visiting the SDSM&T campus in April and talks will continue with them. Talk continues with a Robotics project for the jewelry business that has interests in the incubator. Accurpress America has purchased the old Bergquist Building and is busy renovating it. Steve Hilton of that company has been very impressed with the applications he has received and the amount of people interested in employment. Discussions continue on the development of a firearms institute. A Fortune 500 company that would employ 50 to 100

employees is working with our office. Initial information has been provided to them and they will contact our office if we are considered in its second cut. A consultant with Ellsworth Air Force Base visited our office regarding potential uses of real estate surrounding Ellsworth. Several meetings have also been held with contacts from the railroad.

VI. E-NEWS LETTER

Haverly has been working with a work study on the development of an Economic Development E-News Letter that would be used to report the activities and news of the Rapid City Economic Development and the Black Hills Business Development Center.

VII. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. City of Rapid City

Mayor Shaw updated the board on the progress of Rushmore Crossing, the Meadows project, and Mall Drive. The new Walmart Store will be constructed on Highway 16 and next to it another lifestyle mall. Total retail projects in the works at this time total half a billion dollars of new development if built out as planned. Several TIFS, which are used primarily for infrastructure development, are being considered at this time. The City Task Force has just proposed a plan for high rise building downtown. The 40-million dollar plan would turn a 140 space parking lot into a 15 story building. The building would have retail shops, condos, and office buildings. 2.8 million dollars would come from the 2012 Plan and go towards the parking garage and the rest will be privately funded. There will be a special meeting held Monday night to decide if the Civic Center project should move forward.

B. Pennington County Commission

Nancy Trautman was recently elected to the Pennington County Commission and the new liaison to economic development. She reported the county is also very interested in cooperative efforts on the sewer system for Box Elder. The Governor's office has offered money to study and introduce a proper bill to next year's legislature. Holbrook suggested having Mark Merchen, West River Electric; present the information on this project to the board at one of its upcoming meetings. The county along with the SDSM&T and RESPEC is considering doing a soil study on Highway 79 to be used for considering future development. Hadcock stated Marcia Elkins with the city is currently working on a study and suggested a joint project. Trautman defined the County Fair Levy which now is identified separately on the Notice of Taxes Due. This levy is not to fund the county fair but for building and ground use.

C. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Haverly attended the Annual SDSM&T Alumni President's Dinner this past Saturday. Discussions were held on economic development activities and the association has asked economic development to continue to attend these functions and travel with them promoting the Black Hills Business Development Center.

D. Western Dakota Technical Institute

Haverly reported Dr. Gross contacted her just before today's meeting stating Senate Bill 95 regarding the Technical Institutes Governances would be going before the House of Education on Thursday. The resolution has been forwarded to the House of Education but Dr. Gross also encouraged any available board members to travel to Pierre and testify in support of this bill or that a letter of support be provided no later than today. McKeon reported he would be traveling to Pierre to testify in behalf of the Chamber.

E. Career Learning Center
No report provided.

F. Chamber of Commerce
Carlson reported the Chamber Mid Year Reports were held last Thursday with progress reports presented from each committee. A new committee titled Young Professionals will hold its first mixer on March 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Everyone between the ages of 21 and 40 are encouraged to attend. The Chamber has voted in support of the following bills: Senate Bill 157 Education Funding, Senate Bill 95 Technical School Governances, and Senate Bill 166 Liquor Sales. The Chamber Diplomat fund raiser will be held April 28 at the Ramkota. The International Trade Task Force will be meeting March 29. McKeon added seminars on fraud and embezzlement and accounting for non-accountants will be held March 20-22. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information regarding these seminars. The Chamber of Commerce Board retreat will be held April 19, 20 and 21, a location is yet to be determined.

VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gikling stated at next month's meeting discussion will be held on the length of board meetings and the possibility of moving them to 1 ½ hours. He added a lot of prospects are handled through economic development but due to the confidentiality, information provided to the board may be limited until later in the hosting process. Introduction of new board members include Dan Ames, American Concrete; Dr. Monte Dirks, BH Regional Eye Institute; Greg Hunter, First Security Bank; and Mark Thies, Black Hills Corporation.

IX. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS
No report provided.

X. SCORE
No report provided.

XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR
Dr. Monte Dirks stated he is also a graduate of the SDSM&T and is very excited with the times in Rapid City. He suggested the board follow the Sanford Gift and how it will affect Rapid City. Haverly reported two large ads were purchased in the Rapid City Journal which were run February 11 and February 18. Carsrud added the Wireless Rapid City Committee will be gearing up with meetings starting next week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager