

EDCT Meeting Minutes- June 11, 2020

Present: Ron Luethe, Brett Larkin, Nodji VanWychen

Citizen Member: Kevin Ravenscroft

Advisory Members: Jarrod Roll, Tina Thompson, Chris Hardie

Others: Tina Osterberg, Adrian Lockington

The meeting was called to order in the Monroe County Board Assembly Room at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Ron Luethe.

- Introductions: Name/Title
- Advisory Member 5 Minute Reports:

ITBEC- International Trade, Business and Economic Development Council- Nodji Van Wychen
Reports a change in officers. New officer Sharon Folcey, Vice Chair Maila Kuhn, 2nd Vice Chair Karen, Secretary Nodji VanWychen. Plans to exhibit at the WCA in Wisconsin Dells Sept 21 & 22 2020 are still on the agenda. Approved a grant request in the amount of \$500.00 for the Sparta Chamber of Commerce for a fishing derby. July meeting scheduled due to COVID-19. Meetings confirmed the 1st Friday of each Month. August meeting is schedule and location is TBD. New elected member Brent Engelvreson, not present. Sparta Chamber- John Hendricks leaving. Heidi Prestwood will be replacement. Confirms John Hendricks has the option to stay on as advisory member.

Local History Room- Jarrod Roll

Provides update and collaboration efforts with other museum's and tourism throughout the region and state levels regarding re-opening due to COVID-19. Carefully planning to execute a July re-opening. Renovations and improvements are being completed due to building being closed to the public. Projects included painting, wood replacements and updated signage. Wegner Grotto County Park has seen visitor increase. There is a preservation person on site that will do basic counts of visitors. Art Outdoors scheduled for August has had a discussion of possible cancellation due to COVID-19. Next month agenda will include an update after the re-opening.

Tomah Chamber Report- Tina Thompson

Businesses are beginning to re-open taking precautionary measures and social distance protocols. Two major events will be happening. 1) General Topic Leadership presentation by John McCue, Kwik Trip Corporate Office. 2) July 4th Parade with driving units only on route. Fireworks on schedule for that evening and the Methodist Church will have a Brat Sale and Ice Cream Social. Lunch and Learn Scheduled for July will be in person. DTN – Downtown Thursdays Nights will be re-evaluated closer to August. Discover Wisconsin episode will air later this month, events showcased in film have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

7 Rivers Alliance- Chris Hardie

Recent focus has been how to keep business environment's maintained during the COVID-19 State EDC awarded small business grants up to \$2500. Applications begins 6/15/2020 and they are dedicated on getting the word out to as many small businesses to apply. Standstill is the #1 Challenge on how to survive pandemic and cautions tourism this summer. Predicts low travel from out of area patrons. Week prior to safer at home order, workforce development plan goal was to research how to bring workers to the region. Now the main issues are Child care, housing and transportation. Childcare reopening's are low due to virus concerns. Trying to modify plan geared toward long term strategies, promote region accordingly. Will work with chambers and continue to take Health Department measurements. Will work with local chambers also for plans.

Citizen Member Report- Kevin Ravenscroft /Bank 1st Tomah Wisconsin.

Completed merger May 15th under the new name. Transition during this time was a learning curve. Currently 2 locations and lobby is under remodeling and downtown location drive thru only open. Focus remains customer relations, loan deferrals, funding needed. Recent adjustment made by president to extend loan deadline and could potentially mean loan forgiveness. Seeing businesses gradually open. Merge will be from downtown location to the newest remodel site near the Ace Hardware, Timberwood area.

- **Next Month's Agenda Items Discussion: Proposal/Area Updates**
Nodji VanWychen suggests to add update of area and events during 5 minute reports. She adds they will have Blossom Day on Saturday June 27 at the Wetherby Cranberry Co Farm from 9-10 to tour the cranberry blossom. After tour suggested to go to the Wisconsin Cranberry Center for self-guided tour using social distancing practices. July 3rd will have fireworks as planned and McMullen Memorial County Park did see increase in visitors.
Jarrod Roll- State Elroy/Sparta Bike Trail is open. Tina verified the section near Wilton/Kendall remains closed. Ron stated see's vehicles near the Sparta/Norwalk area. Tina Osterberg added the Wilton/Kendall location was washed out and the DNR will finish repairs summer 2020.
- **Advisory Members: Agenda 3 and Agenda 4 are the same. Advisory Members do not have terms. Correct verbiage should state Citizen Members have 2 year term. Ryan Egstad could not attend but committed to remain Citizen Member. Cedric Schnitzler is looking for 3rd Citizen Member. Citizen Members Kevin Ravenscroft and Ryan Egstad- Motion made by Nodji VanWychen, Second by Jarrod Roll for names to be submitted to County Board as a whole for extending 2 year terms. Motion carried. Tina Thompson suggests citizen member should have a finance, banking and real estate knowledge.**
- **Next Monthly Meeting: Date July 9th at 9:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Board Assembly Room 1st Floor Room 1200 *Room is reserved***
- **Minutes Approval- Motion by Brett Larkin Second by Jarrod Roll to approve the May 14 2020 minutes. Passed by voice vote. Motion carried.**
- **Financials/Invoices Report: Tina Osterberg confirmed no bills paid in June and no current invoices at this time**
- **County Administrator Report: Tina Osterberg gave status of the 2020 Census. Monroe County is at 67.9% and the State of Wisconsin is at 67.8 %. In 2020 Monroe County was #1 in the state at 82%. Submissions have slowed down and will begin going door to door. Update on CCTF. Received Fish and Farmer Grant of \$36,086. Watershed meetings Little La Crosse June 30 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the community center Kickapoo Watershed on June 23 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Wilton. Suggests Representatives from Sparta/Tomah to attend for discussion of future watersheds. Traveling to Trempealeau County to tour the EMS monitoring systems. This location is 1 of 3 that Roxie had researched. Trempealeau County has had their system for 8 years and have seen success with this model. Received \$764,000 General Fund and 1.8 Million for all departments in Monroe County under reimbursement only related to COVID-19. Not applicable on Capital Projects. Awaiting further details. Monroe County website is under constructions. Next Phase and testing will begin week of June 15 2020. Launch target date set for late summer/early fall. Revolving loan funding going to Finance Dept. for County Hwy Project in Wilton area.**

\$664,000 if approved by County Board for vast improvements. Has been over 50 years since it has been repaved.

- **Name of Committee:** Nodji VanWychen suggests the name of Economic Development to be change to Economic Development and Tourism. Motion by Nodji VanWychen Second by Brett Larkin to add a resolution to make name change. Passed by voice vote. Motion carried.

- **Composition and Duties of Committee- Adjustments to Duties at this time:**

B. Duties

- (1) Remove a, add and communicate a
- (2) Remove Work with UWEX CNRED agent to. Capital D in develop and ad s after initiative
- (3) Remove entire description
- (4) No changes
- (5) Remove last sentence: Report annually to the Monroe county Board on the outcomes and plans on an annual basis as part of the annual budget process.
- (6) No changes

Nodji VanWychen suggests to add two additional County Board Members to the committee. Discussion in relation to voting. Ron Lueth discusses and recognizing the County Board Standing Rules. Brett Larkin suggests advisory by Corporate Council before next step. Tina Osterberg will review changes with County Clerk.

- **Next Month Agenda:** Budget Items, Resolution to re-name committee, add 5 minute area reports, additional Advisory Member and Citizen Member, EMS Monitor System Update, COVID-19 Updates and Funding details.
- **Motion by Tina Thompson second by Jarrod Roll to adjourn meeting at 10:40a.m.** Passed by voice vote.