

Meeker County Economic Development Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday May 13, 2021  
Immediately after the MCDC Meeting  
Via Zoom per COVID-19 restrictions

Present: Tim Benoit, Mark Smith, Eric Holt, Danny Scheifelbien, Steve Schmitt, Mike Lokken, Brent Bengtson, Chris Loew & DSI Consultant Lisa Graphenteen

Absent: Chuck Lietzau

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by President Steve Schmitt.

Public comment: no one present

M/S Bengtson/Holt to approve the agenda Motion Carried

M/S Holt/Smith to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting with no additions or corrections. Motion carried

M/S Bengtson/Holt to approve the March and April 2021 financial summaries. Motion carried.

Michelle Morotzke from MMDC joined our meeting to talk a little about MMDC and the facilitating they have been doing with the City of Litchfield, Chamber of Commerce and the Litchfield Downtown Council. She was interested in and wanted to understand where the EDA comes in, the role they play and future opportunities within the county. There was discussion amongst board members and Michelle about the EDA. She also informed the board to how MMDC can help provide resources to the communities and business owners

#### 2021 EDA Goals

Consultant Graphenteen reviewed the 2021 EDA goals with the board to make sure she wasn't missing anything. Board members were in agreement the 2021 EDA goals below looked good and there were no changes.

- \* *Economic Development* - Continue to be a resource to existing and new businesses looking to invest in Meeker County.
- \* *Housing* - Continue supporting the development of new single family and multifamily units in Meeker County to support a growing workforce.
- \* *Childcare* - Continue to work with the Child Care Team to support the creation of new child care slots to establish financial resources for new and existing providers.
- \* *Workforce Development* - Continue to partner with local organizations to promote Meeker County as a great place to work and live. Develop strategies in collaboration with the Chamber to improve workforce development.

#### Revolving Loan fund discussion

Consultant Graphenteen discussed with the board about different options to using the RLF monies. The board asked Graphenteen to come back w/some ideas that would make the loan fund more useable.

UPDATES:

*Economic Development:*

- \* Housing & Chamber Marketing Collaboration:
  - There are still ideas that need to be researched and figured out before moving forward to how things are going to be done

*Office:*

- \* Discussed the need for a Board Member from the Watkins area
- \* MN Rural Broadband Coalition Contribution
  - o Board members discussed contributing to the Coalition but are conflicted on what to do so they decided to table this discussion till next meeting

*Community Updates & Challenges:*

EV – Tysk housing project target start date is September

Not much else currently happening in the other communities

Admin Asst. Loew asked if there was a couple board members that would be interested/willing to be on the Budget/Finance Committee to help with the 2022 EDA Budget. The 2022 County Budget request is due in July and we would need to meet before the request is due. Holt and Bengtson volunteered.

M/S Holt/Benoit to approve adjourning the meeting at 7:09 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted  
Chris Loew, Secretary