

Meeker County Economic Development Authority
Thursday July 9, 2026, at 5:30pm
Meeker County State Highway Building Break Room
Litchfield, Minnesota

Present: Brent Bengtson, Mark Smith, Butch Schmeling, Joe Kuechle, Steve Schmitt, Darren Sombke, Kim Dolan
Via Zoom, Chris Loew & Consultant Lisa Graphenteen.

Absent: Terri Boese

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Steve Schmitt

Public comment: no one present.

M/S Smith/Bengtson to approve the agenda. Motion Carried

M/S Bengtson/Schmeling to approve the May 14, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

M/S Kuechle/Smith to approve the May & June financial summaries. Motion carried.

M/S Bengtson/Sombke to approve the EDA proposed 2027 Budget. Motion carried

Consultant Graphenteen reviewed with the board ideas for using the Revolving loan funds. The Board has previously discussed the transition of funds to a Local Development Organization (LDO) such as MCDC to defederalize them and reduce some of the federal requirements for businesses. Graphenteen also presented information on creating guidelines for Micro Enterprise Lending and Façade Program funding. This would allow the EDA to do smaller economic development projects and also put funds into efforts that revitalize the properties and communities. The Board agreed these were ideas worth pursuing. As a next step, Graphenteen will reach out to County Administrator Andrew Letson to get his thoughts on a work session with the County Board to discuss the ideas as they would need to approve any modifications.

UPDATES:

- Consultant Graphenteen – Reviewed her activities for the last 2 months
- Admin Asst Loew – updated the board on office happenings
- Board members shared their community happenings.

M/S Bengtson/Sombke to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by
Chris Loew, Secretary