**Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**EDC Office Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**May 14, 2019**

**Present**: AJ Downey, Joe Villemure, Colleen Duflo, John Waltman, Brian LeBoeuf and Rose Pann

**Absent**: Cliff Fossitt, Michelle Clark & Paul Burton

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Duflo

**Communication from Public**: None

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the regular board meeting held on April 9, 2019 were reviewed and approved as presented Motion made by Downey, seconded by LeBoeuf. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Addition to the Agenda**: Need to add under New Business #4 -Credit Card Policy; under Finance Committee-Moose du Nord/Action required and then under Information February LMI needs to be changed to March LMI. Motion by Waltman, seconded by LeBoeuf to accept these addition/changes to the Agenda. All Ayes Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

The regular financial report and bills for April 2019 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Villemure seconded by Downey. All Ayes motion passed.

**Correspondence –** None

**Old Business-**

1. **EDC project update** – Tammy is waiting to contact MDOC again until after the court case is over. The Board feels that they should come up with new ideas, so that way we can get a project done while Brow property is getting resolved. Chairperson Duflo has asked the Board to each come back with a wish list of projects to the next meeting. Vice-Chair Downey suggested that we should look at new signs for the Industrial Park for right now for 2019 and he asked the Board members to bring some designs ideas to the next Board meeting.
2. **Snowmobile Trail-**Newberry is the only town in Michigan that is designated trail and snowmobile trail as pure Michigan trail. The Chamber Director is working on changing the trail because it is not an appropriate trail. We will be getting a new Pure Michigan Sign.

**New Business**

1. **Member Updates-** The CDBG/RLF will not be used so the $20,000 will be going back to the State in June. Northern Initiatives could ask for for another extension, the state has given NI extension before. Tammy, Lindsey Miller (with the SOM) and Ryan Bennett will be walking through the Falls Hotel next week. The new owners of The Scoop are doing well and have been busy. Dennis Kisro has purchased the Eagles Club instead of Pickleman’s Performance, Marc Pickleman and Dennis could not reach an agreement. The plan is to do a small engine repair and a gas station. John Waltman is in the process of doing the 407 application and the deadline is July 15, 2019 and MDOT will make their decision in November. The cost estimates and not as what they would like, but it does take a year to get everything ready, so if everything goes as planned, it will 2021 before the road work begins.
2. **Finance Committee-**The committee met because we had an offer on the Movies North Bldg, and they have decided to have a commercial appraisal done and Tammy has contacted Doug Volz and he will be contacting Bruce in order to have access to the bldg. The charge will be $600. Denise and Curt Taylor and opening the Moose du Nord on Land Contract, which they have sent us a copy of. They are asking $35,000 from the EDC for start up cost. With their personal income and debt, they can still make their payment with us. Loan Conditions: First possession on all assets, second lien on Kubota Tractor and have assignment of rents on the rental property. Motion by LeBeouf to approve the loan of $35,000 to Curt & Denise Taylor with the terms listed, seconded by Downey. All Ayes Motion Passed.
3. **Megan Webber MEGLE/Grant Phase 1-**The Board welcomed Megan, formally DEQ and now as Environment Great Lakes & Energy. Megan is here tonight because she has been contacted by an individual that would like to purchase the Pike Lake Store and with the guideline with the Grant, he needs to go through his local government first in order to get approval. With the Brownfield Redevelopment Grant program, the individual would need to get an assessment done since there was a gas station there previously. Megan will be assisting the individual with the process. Once this individual application is accepted Tammy will bring it to the Luce County Board.
4. **Credit Card Issuance & Policy/Action-**The Auditor sent a credit card issuance & policy that was handed out to the Board to go over and then once documents are taken care of then the Board will be able to adopt the policy. Tabled for now.

**Directors Report**

* April and May UPCDC meetings addressed talent shortage and how others are working to retain current employees.
* Back to court for Brow he wants the judgement overturned. Judge Carmody asked both sides to submit their side and he will review. That should be anytime. We have incurred more court costs our Attorney is asking for that too.
* We are now able to receive automatic payments from our loan customers. We are in the process of notifying them this month with billing statements and emails.
* Site Readiness Grant: I am preparing to apply for a grant in the part to prepare a site for immediate sale.
* Banks Hardwoods Drying Kilns sale is finalized, finally.
* EDFP training week 1 of 4 complete in Lansing. Very difficult but learned a lot that will help with loans.
* Opportunity zones training was helpful and should offer more incentives for business in our area.
* Grubsteak training was interesting. Focus is on community investors investing in local businesses.
* Newberry is not only a Trail Town but also trail 45 is a designated trail for Pure Michigan.
* I reached out to Thunderbay Tree Service and Fred Roat for updates.
* Movies North Building will be appraised soon by Doug Volz
* Forestry Committee Meeting: Possible thinning this hear, possible white and red pine sales in the next 1-3 years

**Information**

March 2019 LMI – Handout

Loan portfolio update – Hand out

RLF Balance – Handout

**Communication from public –** None

**Adjournment** – Motion made to adjourn at 5:08 p.m. by Downey Seconded by LeBoeuf. All Ayes motion passed.

Approved by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2019.

Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson