

Luce County Economic Development Corporation
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
EDC Conference Room
May 2, 2017

Present: Michelle Clark, Mike Slaght, Cliff Fossitt, Colleen Duflo, Dave Kenny, Joe Villemure, John Waltman, and Jonathan Grubb.

Absent: A.J. Downey

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Duflo.

Welcome new board member Michelle Clark.

Communications from Public: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting March 7, 2017 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion made by Villemure , seconded by Waltman. Motion passed by majority vote. Abstained by M.Clark.

Approval of Financial Report/Bills

The regular financial report and bills for March and April were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Kenny , seconded by Villemure . All Ayes.

Correspondence – None

Old Business-None

New Business

1. EDC Board Member Updates-

- a. Waltman and Fossitt brought up about new cellphone coverage areas, county road 419, on M-28 & Soo junction and out by the Falls. This should be done by the end of this year.
- b. Northern Initiatives has a Regional Revolving Loan Fund and they still have \$20,000 set aside for Luce County but needs to be used by June 30th, currently have someone looking to use some of those funds for feasibility studies for their future business.
- c. Dave suggested that instead of going through grant processes for sprucing up downtown and/or making little improvements why can't LCEDC have a budget of \$3000-\$5000 set aside to do this type of improvements, example: redoing the "Welcome to Newberry Sign", painting, etc. Further Discussion about what restrictions are in the bylaws.

2. Forestry Update- The annual meeting was last week here at the EDC conference room. Thinning is going to be coming up and a bigger cut in 2019-2020 and the replant is doing well.

3. **Forestry Committee**- currently the EDC has an open seat on the committee. After discussion Cliff Fossitt has offered to fill that seat.
4. **MEDC Interlocal Agreement Renewal**- LCEDC interlocal agreement with the MEDC will be expiring in 2019, further discussion led into a roll call vote to adopt a resolution to approve the agreement renewal. Roll call: Ayes; Slaght, Villemure, Fossitt, Duflo, Kenny, Waltman, Grubb and Clark. Nays; None. Absent; Downey.

Directors Report:

- Met with the new village manager – we plan to collaborate as much as possible.
- Attended Leadership conference in Lansing – I am on the committee. Made some good connections by spending time with my peers.
- UPCDC meeting updated on grant funding and what is left. Not much left, however, we are the only ones that received our robotics money.
- Met with Steve Arwood from MEDC about interlocal agreement with them and its renewal.
- Began and closed the loan for Dukes Sport Shop & Adventure LLC
- Chamber dinner was on 4/21 and went very well. Amazing what a full dedicated board can accomplish.
- Project rising Tide tourism and economic development subcommittee met. We are creating a new regional tourism group- Manistique is on board for sure. Paradise originally said they were not interested in partnering but the contact will be made again through another source.
- Tourism update: they will be out of money by the end of the year. The building and location of the chamber is in question at the moment. Looking into other locations and waiting for tourism to get back to the chamber
- Annual Forestry meeting held: After some discussion it is determined that there will be 376 acres thinned. This project will be finished in two parts. Possible white pine sale in 2019-2020 depending on inventory. Possible Red Pine sale 2019-2020 as well. Replant doing well.
- Brownfield board had first meeting. Waiting on an inventory document from Jen Tucker at DEQ so each person can do inventory in their areas.

Information

January, February & March 2017 LMI
Loan Portfolio updated –Hand Out
RLF Balance – Hand out

Communications from the Public: None

Adjourned: Motion by Waltman, seconded by Kenny . All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Approved by _____ on _____ 2017
Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson