

Momentum West Board of Directors Meeting

May 11th, 2022 – 2:00 pm via Zoom conference

Attending: Rick Geisen, Kelly Ingli, Nick Vivian, Lynn Nelson, Ray French, Katherine Frank, Jenny Benrud, Rob Kreibich, Sheila Nyberg, Timm Sandstrom

Absent: Jon Menz, Brian Elwood, Bun Hanson, Aaron Sundeen, John Will, Pete Koenig,

Also Present: Steve Jahn

A call to order was made by Rob at 2:02 pm.

MINUTES

The April 13th, 2022, board meeting minutes and financials were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes and financials was made by Rick, second by Lynn. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The housing committee is drilling down on the housing series. The first will be a collaborative with the city of Eau Claire, with a tentative second topic being the development of a housing collaborative in west central Wisconsin. We are meeting with Jeff Fagerstrom from Northwest Minnesota Housing Cooperative the following week to learn more about his organization. The second social media campaign has begun with Golden Shovel.

The ad-hoc committee focusing on the infrastructure mapping has not met since the last board meeting.

The new workforce committee formed a sub-committee to fine tune the student immersion idea. They have developed a goal statement and are looking at social media outreach proposals. Work continues on a UWIN online seminar this fall.

The committee chairs should be able to join us in August moving forward.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Steve covered the WEDC/RLC speed testing and the statewide data center attraction effort. We received exposure from WEAU TV on the speed testing.

Steve met with Chancellor Schmidt, Jim Wood from Competitive WI, and Dave minor from the Eau Claire area Chamber of Commerce. We are collaborating with them on a workforce event for this August.

No new RFI's since last meeting.

The career pathways links with the UW System schools and CVTC has wrapped up. Discussions underway on the 22-23 sectors. Final grant draw to be submitted.

A potential event and annual report/publication with Insight Publishing like the collaborative in the Fox Cities is being discussion. More to come.

The first meeting of the EDC executives from within the region was highly successful.

Steve met with Mai Xiong on the Hmong entrepreneur conference in Eau Claire in September. The overview and sponsorship opportunities information to be sent to the board with input requested.

GOVERNANCE

A motion was made by Timm, second by Sheila, post the revised policy manual and priorities document to the website and to save the revised bylaws as written. This action was recommended by the executive committee. The motion carried.

The board was reminded to submit the conflict-of-interest document.

The executive committee moved to submit the 990's as prepared by Wipfli at the April meeting. The files have been submitted by Wipfli.

An in-person board meeting will be hosted by UW-Stout on June 8th. Specifics to follow.

WEDC

Ray presented an overview of WEDC activities.

DRILL DOWN DISCUSSION:

The organizations approach to tackling DEI on a regional bases was discussed. The following feedback was received:

- *Operate as a clearing house of best practices and information*
- *Be complementary and supportive to efforts within the region*
- *DEI needs to be an organizational priority*
- *Numerous efforts are underway in the region*
- *Much is going on, but at various levels of engagement and in different spaces*
- *We should be a curator and create access to best practices, resources, and tools*

A regional event was discussed. Need to avoid duplication with Toward1WI and HALED's September event. Idea to be presented to the workforce committee for leadership

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 via motion by Jenny, second by Rick.

The next meeting will on June 8th, 2022, 2:00 pm, UW-Stout campus.