

Momentum West Board of Directors Meeting

January 10th, 2024 – Zoom Conference

Attending: Timm Sandstrom, Diane Vaughn, Ray French, Jenny Benrud, Scott Allen, Rob Kreibich, Seth Hudson, Kelly Inqli, Brian Elwood, Jon Menz, Sheila Nyberg, John Will, Donna Walker, Katherine Frank, Bun Hanson, Aaron Sundeen

Absent: Nick Vivian, George Brewe

Also Present: Steve Jahn

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

BOARD LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Rob introduced new board chair Katherine Frank and chair elect Timm Sandstrom. The meeting was turned over to Katherine. Katherine noted new board member George Brewe was out of the state and not able to make the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The November 2023 board meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Rob, second by Jenny to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The financials were reviewed with a focus on year-end variances to budget. Donna moved to approve the financials, second by John W. The motion carried.

Steve noted the checking account year-end balance. It was recommended we retain money for the GSA proposal, Cliff Albertson for broadband outreach, money for the capstone project with UW Stout, and transfer \$15,000 to our reserve savings account. Rob moved we transfer \$15,000 to the reserve savings account, second by Ray. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The executive committee reviewed the revised 2024 board and executive committee meeting schedule, recommending full board approval. Rob moved to approve the schedule, second by Jenny. The motion carried.

Aaron covered the housing committee's work. We are working with the St Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity on a two-county co-op that we hope to grow into six counties. A feasibility study will be done, developer identified, and a sub list compiled. The city of Menomonie is also working with a developer that could be leveraged for the expansion.

We are working with UW Stout on the development of two videos focusing on the region's higher education. Details being worked out.

The housing panel on the site will be developed when the Dunn County toolkit is done and can be posted with the existing housing studies. Steve is working on the Toolkit idea and mapping Dunn County as the

first county to create the content and data. They have agreed to look at MW hosting the toolkit and our expanding it to all ten MW counties.

The next iteration of the housing conference is being planned.

Steve asked the board to approve the website revisions as per the GSA quote. Brian motioned we move forward, second by Donna. The motion carried.

Seth gave an overview of the early conceptual direction of the October workforce summit. Partnership potential with higher ed and the WCWWDB.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

The annual meeting awards nominations were reviewed. The following award recipients were selected from the nominations via two member nominations as per the following:

- Top development project: Loos Machine and Automation, nominated by Brian, second by Aaron*
- Top redevelopment project: St Croix Falls Civic Auditorium Project, nominated by Jenny second by Katherine*
- Top talent initiative: UW Stout programs for middle and high school students, nominated by John W. second by Brian*
- Entrepreneur of the Year: Bill Lobner – Green Fleet, nominated by Ray second by Rob*
- Young Professional: Melissa Meschke – UW IBE/St Crois EDC*
- Regional collaboration: Menomonie Food Coop Eau Claire, nominated by Katherine, second by Jenny*
- Regional impact: WCW Regional Broadband Coalition, nominated by Donna second by Seth*
- Above and Beyond: Neil Kline and Family Friendly Workplaces nominated by John second by Brian*
- Diversity & Inclusion: Dennis Beale, Power of Perception, nominated by Brian second by Ray*

Aaron moved that the full slate of final category nominations be approved, Sheila second. The motion carried.

GOVERNANCE

Katherine agreed to cover board engagement and the commitment to serve document at the next meeting.

The ROFR bill was discussed protecting the power utilities right of refusal for power line projects versus opening it up to out of state bids and potential higher consumer prices. Momentum West has been asked, along with the other regional EDOs, to provide a LOS. Those asked have agreed. Steve will send a draft LOS and conduct a email pole of approval following the meeting.

WEDC

No report given due to time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm via motion by Katherine.

The next meeting will be on February 14th, via Zoom, from 2pm – 3pm.

Follow-up utilities LOS poll:

A draft LOW was sent following the meeting. Eleven board members approved, Ray abstained from the vote, there was no opposition. The LOS was approved for release to Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power.