

Momentum West Board of Directors Meeting

May 8th, 2024 – Zoom Conference

Attending: Ray French, Scott Allen, Seth Hudson, Brian Elwood, Jon Menz, Sheila Nyberg, Donna Walker, Katherine Frank, Bun Hanson, Aaron Sundeen, Nick Vivian,

Absent: Rob Kreibich, Kelly Ingli, John Will, George Brewes, Timm Sandstrom, Diane Vaughn, Jenny Benrud

Also Present: Steve Jahn

A call to order was made by Katherine at 2:01pm

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Sheila, second by Bun to approve the February minutes and the February – April financials. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Steve gave an executive committee report noting the committee's approval for a \$2,500 match to the Habitat for Humanity St Croix Valley WEDC grant to conduct a feasibility study and outline the development process for a three-county housing cooperative. The funds were approved since the effort will evolve into a regional cooperative with our working with the parties involved in the three-county effort.*
- There are over thirty website marketing panels being edited by higher education, the county EDC's, municipalities, and utilities for the marketing program with Golden Shovel. Hope to have much of this live by months end.*
- Aaron gave an overview of the work with the SCV Habitat for Humanity office, Derrick, WEDC and the Pierce County EDC. A feasibility study is underway, along with potential partner outreach.*
- We are a bit behind on the video work with the UW Stout marketing classes. Several higher ed institutions need June to set up the interviews.*
- GSA is constructing the housing toolkit. They have most of the copy. We will do outreach to the eight remaining counties for contact lists when the platform is done.*
- Steve and Aaron reviewed the housing conference agenda.*
- Seth gave an overview of the workforce conference scheduled for October 23rd.*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Steve gave the executive directors report noting the following items:

- *The 2025 annual meeting was moved to February 18th. This will put us before the spring break cycle and the Chippewa Valley Rally. A keynote speaker will be considered for next year, as well as more timely post meeting awards outreach leveraging the intern.*
- *We have an intern, Becky Gaspord, who will be starting shortly. This is a shared internship with the Menomonie Chamber of Commerce.*
- *Steve is part of the planning group for the fall WEDA conference to be held in Eau Claire.*
- *Several RFI's are still active. There was a site visit in Hammond April 22nd – 23rd. The meeting was positive and follow-up questions are being addressed. Effort being made to include UW Stout in future site visits. They have been included in one of the last three.*
- *The '24 – '25 Pathways grant has been submitted to DPI. The last listening session was last week.*
- *Steve gave a brief update for John Will on the Homes initiative.*
- *WCWWDB collaboration funding is almost gone. Steve was in contact with the Employer Resource Network, and they have funds under this grant available. Information will be forwarded to our partners.*
- *There will be a second train from St Paul to Chicago. No stops in our region but a shuttle to Tomah is on the table. No funding available from DOT as of now.*
- *Steve continues to be part of the WEDC Ambassadors program. No leads for our region yet.*

GOVERNANCE

The manufacturers alliance development was covered. The WCWWDB, WCWRPC, and Momentum West are spearheading an effort to enhance Manufacturing Works. Ann Franz from NEW Mfg. out of the northeastern part of the state has offered to help facilitate a planning session in late June. Steve is developing an advisory group of manufacturing representatives, higher education, and economic development organizations. Dave Armstrong, Kelly Ingli, Katherin Frank, Sunem Beaton Garcia, Jeff Sullivan, are part of the group. Steve met with the regions EDO's on Monday and is collaborating with them to lock in representation from each county, as well as key manufacturers from the region.

WEDC

Ray gave an overview of WEDC activities.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53pm via motion by Aaron, second by Ray.

The next meeting will be August 14th, 2:00 – 3:00pm, via Teams.