

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Economic Development

Date of Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2016

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date: Friday, May 6, 2016

Chair David Danzinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Douglas Kane, Mr. David Eddy and Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Excused was Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING: Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. Carl Duley, Mr. Daniel Barr, Mr. Matt Kures, Mr. Greg Flogstad, Mr. Terry Whipple, Mr. Stephen Schiffli and Mr. Greg Wise.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None

Minutes: Mr. Douglas Kane made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. David Eddy. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action - Presentation by Steven C. Dellar – Economic Influences Distance Study:

Mr. Dellar was unable to be present for the meeting today. Mr. Kures informed the Committee that Mr. Dellar's presentation will be covered in his presentation.

Review/Discussion/Action - Presentation by Matthew Kures – Updated on Labor Data for Buffalo County and Surrounding Regions:

Mr. Kures presented the perspectives on Buffalo County's labor force and surrounding regions to include worker flow, wage data, advantages and challenges for Buffalo County population growth trends, age distribution estimates and comparisons, unemployment and labor participation, trends in regional and inter-state mobility and quality of life considerations.

Review/Discussion/Action - Presentation by Terry Whipple and Greg Wise on County Structures for Economic Development:

Mr. Terry Whipple, Juneau County Economic Development Director, reviewed Juneau County's Economic Development Department and Committee structure. He indicated that it is a non-profit organization that promotes the economic development of Juneau County and its respective cities, villages and towns. It is comprised of area business persons, citizens, local government, utility company representatives, state agencies, elected officials and educational institutions with 13 board members operating under a 501 (c) 6 corporation, supported and funding in large part by the county. Other funding

sources include membership dues, grants and donations. Juneau County uses the excess sales tax revenue to fund economic development.

Mr. Whipple reviewed the iLEAD (individualized Leadership Entrepreneurial Academic Discovery) program that is to empower students to be agents of innovation by cultivating their entrepreneurial spirit and leadership capacity for the challenges of the 21st century. Mr. Whipple stated that this program has been very successful in cultivating the character skills necessary to succeed with their own educational needs.

Mr. Whipple also indicated that Juneau County has an Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club (I & A) that provides a safe network for inventors and entrepreneurs to explore ideas, learn from peers, gain business knowledge and make valuable connections.

Mr. Whipple indicated that Monroe County also has a model structure that Buffalo County may wish to explore. They presently have an Economic Development Coordinator and he encouraged the committee to speak with Mr. Steve Peterson. He recommended finding a person or contracting with someone to assist in the economic development process unless you had current staff able to fill this role.

Mr. Whipple extended his willingness to assist Buffalo County in developing economic growth.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding additional federal funding for Economic and Workforce Development in Coal-impacted Communities:

Mr. Greg Flogstad informed the Committee that the Obama Administration announced that there will be 65.8 million dollars of additional funding for Coal power impacted communities to help create jobs, attract capital investments and strengthen workforce development in coal impacted communities and to apply for any available upcoming grants.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the update on EDA Grant:

Mr. Greg Flogstad informed the Committee that scope of work is being reviewed by the project team via phone conferences and moving forward. He indicated that the first request for reimbursement is being submitted.

Public Comments Not Regarding Agenda Items: None

Next Meeting Date & Time: The next meeting will be scheduled in the future.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Mr. David Eddy seconded by Mr. Douglas Kane to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sonya J. Hansen, Recording Secretary