

NORTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2015 at 2:00PM

Location: Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission
Morrisville, Vermont

- The meeting was called to order at 2:10 P.M.
- Please see the attached Attendance Matrix
- Co-Chair Tasha Wallis asked that we all introduce ourselves
- Motion to accept the minutes of October 7 2015 was made by Mike Welch and seconded by John Mandeville. Motion passed unanimously.

An overview of the NVEDD financial report was presented by Catherine Dimitruk. A motion to accept the report was made by Paul Monette and seconded by David Snedeker. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Guests:

At the meeting we were joined by **Matthew Suchodolski**, an Economic Development Specialist (EDS) from the Federal Economic Development Authority (EDA) covering Vermont and Massachusetts.

Matthew shared with the NVEDD Board that our initial EDA Administrative Grant will be expiring in three months. He is comfortable with the direction NVEDD is headed and pleased with the professional leadership which is in place.

We should start to consider the various forms of funding that the NVEDD Board can bring to the table. The time is right to start to plan an application submitted to EDA for a new administrative grant and Matthew gave some examples of other projects that might be applicable in the near future. Catherine we thanked Matthew for his guidance with the NVEDD start up.

Mark Scarano, Chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) also attended the meeting. Mark gave an overview of the NBRC and that it works very closely with other Federal Partners including EDA. Mark announced that Christine Frost will be the new Program Director at NBRC. John Mandeville suggested hosting NBRC workshops again.

- The NVEDD website was reviewed by the Board and a number of suggestions were made. Jan Marinelli volunteered to assist with the wordsmithing.

We moved on to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) portion of the meeting. Karen Geraghty with NVDA has been working on compiling the CEDS and was looking for input on the existing draft. The committee did a regional (six counties) review of the SWOT Analysis and spent some time contributing to the list. The updated SWOT Analysis will be shared for the next NVEDD meeting. The Board also discussed how members might outreach to our communities to educate them about NVEDD and the CEDS.

Karen/Tasha led the discussion regarding proposed Economic Indicators that could be included in the CEDS. Some points that came out of the discussion includes

- Possibly pairing down the number of indicators based on our ability to track them
- Number of childcare businesses/spots
- Partnership employment opportunities (?)
- Access data from other partners/collaboration
- Preschool data
- Can we use NRBC data for our use?
- Can we track entrepreneurships and jobs created
- Track new regional jobs as a whole
- Self employment numbers

Motion to adjourn at 3:50pm

Respectfully,

Tim Smith