

NORTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

March 16, 2016

Location: Laraway School  
Johnson, Vermont

- The meeting was called to order at 1:04pm by co-chair John Mandeville
- Please see attached list of attendees
- Minutes of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were presented Tim Smith
  - A motion to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Board meeting was made by John Morley and seconded by Greg Stefanski. David Berg shared one correction. The motion passed unanimously.
- NVEDD financials were presented by Catherine Dimitruk. The report was as of December 31, 2015. The District's reporting to EDA was current. The NVEDD's fiscal agent is Northwest Regional Planning Commission and they recently completed their yearly audit which went very well and showed no findings. A motion to accept the financials was made by John Mandeville and seconded by Kathy Lavoie. The motions passed unanimously. The budget report is attached.
- The EDA progress report was also presented by Catherine Dimitruk. The report is included with these minutes and it is current with EDA.
- Matthew Suchodolski Vermont's EDA Economic Development Specialist spoke for a few minutes regarding ongoing grantee planning grants. This type of grant application should be submitted if NVEDD would like to receive ongoing funding as compared to a one time Administrative Award; which we currently have. The ongoing grant allows for more consistent and permanent funding. Mike Welch moved to submit an EDA application for an Ongoing Planning Grant seconded by Kathy Lavoie. The motion passed unanimously.
- John Madeville gave a quick overview of the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) workshops that were held throughout the NVEDD Region. There were workshops held in St. Johnsbury, Hyde Park and Swanton and at each event an overview of the draft CEDS was presented. There were a total of 100+ attendees at the three events.

John M. also shared an initiative that Jared Duval with the VT Agency of Commerce was promoting. Jared was hoping that NVEDD could coordinate an event that brings all potential NBRC applicants together to discuss possible collaborations.

Mike Welch moved for NVEDD to coordinate an NBRC applicant collaboration session. It was seconded by Sarah Waring. The motion passed unanimously. Mike and Sarah volunteered to coordinate the event.

- Chris Saunders from Senator Leahy's office reported the current Federal budget has allocated \$7.1 million dollars for the NRBC program with Vermont receiving \$1.7 of the total. The Senator is advocating for \$10 million in next year's budget.
- Karen Geraghty gave an overview of the most up-to-date draft CEDS which incorporated all prior comments that the Board received during the outreach process. Some additional Board comments from today's meeting included the region's strength related to the food industry and our population has experience and wisdom.

Catherine Dimitruk moved to approve the CEDS document with recommended changes/additions that the Board suggested and discussed. Sara Waring seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

**The Board acknowledged all of Karen's hard work to pull the document together and they expressed their appreciation.**

Catherine also noted that upon EDA review, we as a Board may still need to make adjustments to the CEDS before it is actually approved. Once approved, the document will continue to evolve each year.

- A discussion of our Board's outreach and what responses we have received was shared. Any outreach initiatives should be sent to Catherine for her to compile for our progress report.
- We went around the table for Board members to share upcoming events in their regions.
- Next Board meeting we will discuss what the process will look like for submitting applications to EDA.
- Matt S. Will be compiling a list of projects that have been funded recently and share with the Board.

John M. moved to adjourn. Mike W. seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully,

Tim Smith