

## NVEDD Minutes, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Meeting was held at Northern Vermont University – Johnson Campus

- The meeting was called to order at 12:56 PM
- Minutes from the August meeting were not available so no action was taken
- On a motion from Jim Lovinsky and seconded by Catherine Dimitruk the Board voted to appoint Scott Johnstone and Lisa Birmingham to fill two Lamoille County vacancies on the NVEDD Board. The motion passed unanimously.
- On a motion from Dave Snedeker, seconded by Stuart May, Jim Lovinsky was nominated to fill an NVDA vacancy on the NVEDD Board. The motion passed unanimously. Jim had previously represented Lamoille County but recently moved to Hardwick so he was no longer a Lamoille representative and was now voted to fill a vacant NVDA seat.
  - Lamoille still has one vacant seat on the NVEDD Board.
- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (commonly referred to as the CEDS) has been sent to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for their review. No response as of this meeting.
- There was discussion re: whether or not our bylaws had been updated. Dave Snedeker was going to reach out to former Board member Paul Monette to see when the last update had occurred.
- Pat Ripley and Natalie Elvidge (Agency of Commerce) gave an overview and reasons behind the economic development Priority Project process. Each RDC region is required to do community outreach to generate a list of potential economic development projects. The RDC and RPC collaborate to rank the top projects from 1 to 10. Any project not making the top 10 are then put on a “watch” list.
  - The list is used when evaluating grant applications i.e. NBRC.
  - Conversation focused on where do housing projects fit into the priority list considering they are not true economic development project where long term jobs are created.
  - Sarah Waring also offered USDA assistance when compiling the lists.
- USDA update – Sarah Waring shared that they were busy with ongoing flood recovery work. Conversation focused on where does USDA fit into the

federal match equation when grants are awarded. USDA can act as bridge funding.

- Legislative updates- Fauna Hurley from Senator Welch's office shared that Katherine Tripani is Vermont's new EDA contact as Matthew had taken another position. We were reminded the Board of the upcoming Women's Economic Development Seminar that Senator Welch sponsors.
  - The Senator is still working on getting the Amtrak train to Montreal
- Will Stevens from Senator Sanders office is one of the outreach representatives covering ag, working lands, workforce, economic development and the Senator serves as the Chair of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee.
- Natalie Elvidge from the Agency of Commerce gave an overview of the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) activities
  - The application process is competitive.
  - Housing projects do not fall under NBRC grant eligibility.
  - Letters of Intent are due in January
  - The Catalyst Program received 31 applications of which 13 projects for a total amount of funding of \$10.8 million.
- We then then adjourned the Board meeting at 1:55 PM to go on a tour in the Town of Johnson to view the damage caused by the flooding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Smith