

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Location: Fairbanks Museum

1302 Main Street

St. Johnsbury, VT

Lunch 12:00, Business meeting starts at 12:30

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions - Tasha Wallis opened the meeting at 1:00pm
2. Additions/changes to the agenda? - No additions or changes to agenda
3. Approve minutes from April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 - Lisa Birmingham moved to approve the minutes from April 2nd. Ann Nygard seconded. Motion carried unanimously
4. Next meetings:
  - a. No meeting in August
  - b. Meeting Tuesday, October 1st 1:00, Location TBA. We are looking for a presentation for this date. - Franklin or Grand Isle suggested as locations for October.
5. Lamoille River EDA grant application update – Tasha Wallis gave an update on the \$500,000 EDA grant application for river modeling and municipal/business recovery efforts. Heard from EDA contact that they are likely to hear additional news in the next few weeks. Goal is to extend modeling into communities that will likely be impacted when the river floods.
6. Yellow Barn update/progress – Dave Snedeker gave a brief update on the Yellow Barn. The project is well past 50% construction. The yellow barn itself is nearly complete and will be occupied by Cabot Creamery. The 20,000+ sq ft building next door will be shared by the Cellars at Jasper Hill and a packing and distribution facility for The Center for an Agricultural Economy. The additional building will hopefully be occupied by December.

7. Federal Delegation/NBRC updates
  - a. James Paradissis, Senator Sanders - Announcements on CDS funding to come soon. Not much news on new legislation for the next few months. Will have folks from DC visiting Vermont during the congressional break so partners should pass along any events for them to attend.
  - b. NBRC - Currently scoring spring grant applications, 6 total applications from our region. Encouraged members to apply for timber for transit grants, only one current application from the state of Vermont. Must involve regionally sourced wood, timber used in project must be specified in application. Grants can be up to \$1 million.
8. Discussions on Board vacancies: NVDA has a potential 7th partner to add to the NVEDD Board. Newport's new mayor had expressed interest. Tasha Wallis suggested Franklin/Grand Isle and Lamoille look to find a new potential addition prior to the next meeting and bring names of those individuals forward in October.
  - a. Lamoille County
  - b. Franklin County
  - c. NVDA
9. Partner Updates
  - a. Joe Kasprzak - St. Johnsbury Update
    - i. 30 redevelopments have taken place or are underway throughout the region as a result of NVDA brownfields program and EPA funds. The NVDA Brownfields Coalition has invested \$800,000+ of EPA funds into the town of St. Johnsbury for 17 projects which will result in a total investment of \$65,000,000 if all projects are completed as planned.
  - b. This Thursday is the Vermont Forest Industries Summit at the Bolton Valley Resort from 9-5.
  - c. Lisa Birmingham - Lamoille Valley FiberNet Update
    - i. Beginning construction on Lamoille FiberNet in May in Johnson and Stowe. Cambridge, Waterville Belvedere, Morrisville and Hyde Park will be later this summer. All

three CUDs have chosen different business models but are continuing to move forward.

d. Dave Snedeker shared that the VT Walk/Bike Summit will be June 20th at the St. Johnsbury Academy campus.

10. Old Business/New Business - None
11. Tour of the Fairbanks Museum Science Annex *1:30*
12. Downtown tour *2:15*
13. Tour of the Northern Forest Center's housing project *2:30*
14. Adjourn 3:00 - Catherine Dimitruk moved to adjourn the meeting.  
Second by Dave Snedeker.