

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Agenda for Board Meeting – via Zoom

April 1, 2025 @ 1:00pm

Attendees: D. Snedeker, P. Ripley (Chair), K. Dwyer, B. Sheets, C. McGowan, A. Goddard, J. Carlo, S. Bealer, T. Wallis, B. Buermann, J. Lovinsky, L. Birmingham, A. Nygard, K. Lavoie, C. Dimitruk. Also, E. Nance, R. Amore, F. Hurley, J. Paradissis, J. Dasaro, M. Nichols.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions – *Pat Ripley opened meeting at 1:00pm*
2. Agenda additions/changes – *No additions or changes to agenda.*
3. Minutes of February 4, 2025 – *B. Buermann moved to approve, J. Lovinsky seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.*
4. Meeting schedule – *June 3rd meeting in East Fairfield (LVRT) with lunch @ noon. No August meeting.*
5. Board membership discussion – *Jen Carlo, Director of the NEK Collaborative, was introduced to the Board. T. Wallis moved to add her to the Board, C. McGowan seconded. Unanimously approved. Alex Goddard, Hyde Park Manager, was introduced to the Board. T. Wallis moved to add him to the Board, L. Birmingham seconded. Unanimously approved.*
6. Overview of 2024 CEDS Annual Report – *Catherine Dimitruk informed Board that the CEDS is a 5-year plan and that an Annual Report is required each year. Kyle Dwyer presented an overview of the 2024 Annual Report. Approval is needed by the end of April before submitting to EDA. C. Dimitruk moved to accept the 2024 Annual Report with suggested changes, L. Birmingham seconded. Unanimously approved.*
7. Federal Legislative Delegation updates
 - a. James Paradissis (Sanders) – *Budget reconciliation in Congress. Sen. Sanders has no CDS deadlines for FY26. Debt ceiling vote in July. Medicaid cuts will be needed to reach targets.*
 - b. Fauna Hurley (Welch) – *Sen. Welch attended VT/Quebec trade event in Newport with businesses representing various sectors from both sides of the border.*
 - c. Morgan Nichols (Balint) – *No decisions on FY25 CDS applications, but applicants should reapply for FY26. Brief discussion regarding Certificates of Origin that importers/exporters can use to comply with USMCA trade agreement.*
8. Partner Updates –
 - *Tasha Wallis gave a brief update on progress with the EDA Recovery grant that the RPCs/RDCs are all working on.*

- *Elisabeth Nance shared that the VT Brownfield Fund is accepting no new applications. Also that the NRBRC list of applicants was shared with the RDCs. \$15.1M available for 39 projects that were accepted.*
 - *Ann Nygard shared VTSU is partnering on their 2023 Forest Economy grant with the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund. Also, to assist with the implementation of the NVDA EDA Build to Scale grant, Do North has brought on Lars Torres as the Entrepreneur in Residence.*
 - *Christine McGowan shared that the VT Forest Industry Summit will be in June at the Bolton Valley Resort.*
 - *Catherine Dimitruk shared her April 1st news about a penguin therapy farm in Elmore, VT.*
9. *Adjourn – J. Lovinsky moved to adjourn at 1:49pm, B. Sheets seconded. Motion approved unanimously.*

Minutes submitted by David Snedeker