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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

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## Full Board Meeting Minutes

5/2/2018

*Sidney Health Center*

Randy Olson brought the meeting to order at 6:41 AM. Board members present were: Leif Anderson, Bryce Baker, Pam Burman, Chip Gifford, Walt McNutt, Randy Olson, Vanessa Pooch, Mark Rehbein, Blaine Rogers, Gary Schoepp, Alan Seigfreid, Don Steinbeisser, Heather VanGelder, Jackie Washechek, Leslie Messer and Katie Dasinger. Members absent were: Craig Averett, Jason Brothen, Tami Christensen, Bill Henderson, Shane Gorder, and Cami Skinner.

Mark moved to accept the past minutes, Chip seconded. Approved.

**Financial Reports:** Leslie reported that the yearly totals are coming along. She also reminded the board that as of June 1 the second part of our annual membership drive will go out so those numbers will be changing.

Bryce moved to approve all financials. Alan Seconded. Approved.

**Candidate Williams Meeting:** Leslie was asked to attend a meeting for Congressional Candidate hopeful Kathleen Williams last week at the Chamber. Leslie, Susan and Jeremy Norby gave an overview of the area and highlighted some of our unique challenges. We are always happy to participate, but will not facilitate meetings until Candidates are officially elected.

**Article for the Herald:** Bill VanderWeele asked Leslie to write an "Why I love the Bakken" article for the spring edition of Bakken Living. A copy of the letter has been included in your packets or is available to read prior to publication from our office.

**Governor's Office of Economic Development Opportunity Lead:** Our office was contacted along with all rural airports in the State for the possibility of a manufacturing company coming to the airport. Leslie spoke with the Commissioners and worked a letter for the group highlighting the economic possibilities Richland County has to offer. The airport has been contacted to have an onsite follow up in the future.

**Senator Steve Daines' Energy Summit May 30-31:** Every other year, Senator Daines hosts an Energy Summit in Billings. Leslie and Katie attended 2 years ago. During the summit they have the opportunity to listen to different speakers in different energy sectors as well as take in continuing education classes. Blaine moved to allow Leslie and Katie to travel to Billings to attend the Summit. Heather Seconded. Approved

**LYIP Hearing:** Leslie and Katie traveled last week to Great Falls for the LYIP summary judgement hearing. There were over 250 people who signed in with security and over 70 of them rode the buses! The hearing took just over 3 hours. It is always difficult to get a read on the Judge. However, he did openly address the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit overturning his previous preliminary injunction. Many people were surprised by some

of the different parts of the proceedings but we are ever hopeful and will continue to keep the board and community apprised of a decision when it is available.

**Leadership MT Graduation:** Following the hearing in Great Falls, Leslie traveled down to Billings for the Leadership Montana Graduation. It was a wonderful event with over 250 in attendance. The Sidney session was the highest ranked by the class of 2018!!! Thank you for all your help once again! There are over 110 applicants for the 2019 class for 42 spots. Leslie is already looking forward to it!

**SYP Updates:**

- In April, the SYP event did not have a good turnout. While we would like to say it was because there were so many conflicting events that night, we also must acknowledge that the lack of participation in the spring has happened both years. Therefore, we will be going back to the table to make some tweaks again!
- On May 12<sup>th</sup>, SYP will be hosting their picnic in the park. This is a family-friendly event and open to the public. Fairview FFA will be helping kids do mother's day crafts!
- On May 14<sup>th</sup> SYP will be hosting a Candidate Roundtable. This is a public event. It will be from 6-8 pm at the MSU extension office.
- June 20-23 is the 2018 Montana Young Professionals Summit. Katie would like to participate, and as last year, request that REDC cover travel and work time. Don moved to approve. Pam seconded. Approved.

**City Report: None**

**County Report: None**

**Open Discussion:**

- Brewfest had more people than last year and 1/3 of attendees used the Sidney Shuttle free ride!
- Lucky Buckle will be liquidating by the end of May. This should have no impact on the RLF
  - As of May 1, there is just over \$1 million available to lend and over \$50,000 in interest accrued since 2005!
- Real Estate has seen a seasonal uptick. Single family homes are moving while commercial is still stagnant. Ag land has stayed consistently in demand and moving.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018