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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes 12/5/2018

Sidney Health Center

Randy Olson brought the meeting to order at 6:45 AM. Board members present were: Leif Anderson, Craig Averett, Bryce Baker, Pam Burman, Tami Christensen, Walt McNutt, Randy Olson, Vanessa Pooch, Mark Rehbein, Blaine Rogers, Gary Schoepp, Alan Seigfreid, Cami Skinner, Don Steinbeisser, Heather VanGelder, Leslie Messer and Katie Dasinger. Members absent were: Jason Brothen, Chip Gifford, Shane Gorder, Bill Henderson, and Jackie Washechek.

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

Financial Reports: The financials were for the months of October and November. We have sent out the membership drive, so the 2019 dues should start to trickle in. The only expense out of the ordinary is the annual meeting meal.

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

2019 Meeting dates: Leslie presented the dates for our full board meetings that will be held in 2019.

Open House: Leslie reminded everyone that we will be having our director open house this Friday from 11-1. Please stop by for lunch and conversation.

Annual meeting recap: The 2018 Annual meeting was held on 11/7, which was also Election Day. It was decided that we should not host the annual meeting on Election Day again. Our numbers could have been stronger if not for that.

Savage Community Hall: Leslie was pleased to report that our office was contacted to help out Savage breathe new life into the volunteer group. Leslie worked with them to change their name, attain the non-profit status, and get accepted in good standing with the MT Secretary of State. The group will be looking for grant assistance to update the hall facility.

SHC Strategic Plan: Leslie was asked to participate in the strategic plan update for the hospital. She visited with two consultants about the things she has heard our membership express about SHC.

Miles Community College: Leslie and Katie were asked to attain a facility for two public meetings that MCC wanted to host in Sidney. The first was for community leaders, and the second was for the city / county governments. Stacey K from MCC was very pleased with our assistance, and also became a member of REDC.

Chamber Leadership Class: Leslie was invited to conduct a presentation to the class during energy day. Leslie was happy to do so, and stated that this class was very interactive.

LYREC Legislative Dinner: Leslie and Randy were invited to attend the meeting on 11/26 on behalf of REDC. The objective of this event was for the RECs to present their top two priorities for the upcoming 2019 session. They outlined two priorities: management of the aquatic invasive species, zebra mussels, and the mitigation for the sage grouse.

SYP Updates:

- Katie reported that the next event will be the school supply assistance. This event will be held on Dec 13th at the Ranger Lounge. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Katie also reported that she had an in-depth call with one of the committee members working on selecting the city for the 2020 statewide Young Professionals Conference. Right now, it appears as if Helena, Missoula, and Sidney are all eager to apply for consideration. There should be a checklist of proposal items released soon.

City Report:

- Tami reported that the public meetings held in regards to the new water rates had been held. There was only one written letter of protest sent to the City. Tami stated that the new rates will be increased over a 5 year period.
- Tami also reported that the council has taken steps to move forward on addressing nuisance properties.

County Report:

- None

Open Discussion:

- Leslie reported that per the executive board's advice, she will be sending out membership letter requests to the Agricultural community. We have spent a tremendous amount of time on the irrigation case, and it would be so helpful to have financial support from more Ag folks.
- Leslie stated that our office computers are truly making it near impossible to get our work done, as they are 5-6 years old. Leslie will seek estimates for replacement computers for both Katie and Leslie.
- Leif reported that the Sidney Sugars plant purchase uncertainty may now be reflected in the land values. He has noticed a slight downward trend on the sales.
- Blaine stated that Burger King is open now and that they are working out some kinks, but food is great.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 9th, 2019. (One week later, due to the New Year holiday.)

Next Executive Board Meeting: **No meeting due to the holidays.**