

Economic Development Corporation

January 7, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Richard Diebold, Laura Stanek, Bob Peterson, Jerome Simowski, Sherry Comben, and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: Allyn Wright, Robert Atkinson and Tom Lane

Others Present: Marshall Wright

1. Call to Order

Rick Diebold called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Election of Officers

Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner opened the floor for nominations for president of the Economic Development Corporation.

✧ President

Jerry Simowski nominated Rick Diebold.

Motion by Bob Peterson, supported by Laura Stanek, to close nominations for president and cast a unanimous ballot for Rick Diebold. Motion carried – unanimous.

Rick Diebold took his position as president and chaired the rest of the meeting.

✧ Vice President

Laura Stanek nominated Robert Atkinson for vice president.

Motion by Bob Peterson, supported by Laura Stanek, to close nominations for vice president and cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Atkinson. Motion carried – unanimous.

✧ Secretary/Treasurer

Laura Stanek nominated Jerry Simowski for secretary/treasurer.

Motion by Laura Stanek, supported by Sherry Comben, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jerry Simowski for secretary/treasurer. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Meeting Dates and Times

Motion by Jerome Simowski, supported by Laura Stanek, to establish the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. as the regular meeting date time for the Economic Development Corporation for the year 2004. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Minutes of the November 5, 2003, Meeting

Motion by Jerome Simowski, seconded by Sherry Comben, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2003 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Jerome Simowski, seconded by Sherry Comben, to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2003 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. County Master Plan – Economic Development Objectives

Rick Diebold summed up the work by the EDC, on the Economic Development portion of the Master Plan, to date. The Commission discussed the overall process for adoption of the Master Plan, and how the Economic Development portion fits in to the process.

The Commission reviewed and made changes to the draft plan. Peter Garwood, Howard Yamaguchi and Marshall Wright will get together to clean up the document and prepare it for further review by the board members at a future meeting.

6. Communication and Member Comment

Sherry Comben announced she would not be able to make the next meeting.

No Communications were received.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Economic Development Corporation

February 17, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Allyn Wright, Laura Stanek, Bob Peterson, Tom Lane and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: Richard Diebold, Sherry Comben, Jerome Simowski, and Robert Atkinson

Others Present: Terri Crandall-Kimble

1. Call to Order

Pete Garwood called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

2. Minutes of the January 7, 2004, Meeting

Motion by Allyn Wright, seconded by Laura Stanek, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2004 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. County Master Plan – Economic Development Objectives

Pete Garwood led the discussion and the EDC make changes to the draft plan, Objectives 1 through 4. EDC also discussed changes proposed by Marshall Wright. Revised version will be discussed at next EDC meeting.

4. Communication and Member Comment

The comments by Gary Knapp to the EDC master plan process was discussed in some detail. Pete Garwood informed EDC that Rick Diebold would draft a response, and that member comments were welcome. Members commented on the need to engage the Community Resource Development (CRD) and other regional economic development organizations into the process. It was suggested that Mr. Knapp be invited to participate in the meetings. Bob Peterson suggested that the EDC review the letter before it is transmitted to Mr. Knapp.

Howard requested input at the next meeting on the text of the EDC master plan document, drafted by Marshall Wright to precede the goals and objectives sections.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Economic Development Corporation

March 16, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Richard Diebold, Allyn Wright, Sherry Comben, Bob Peterson, Tom Lane and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: Jerome Simowski, Laura Stanek, and Robert Atkinson

Others Present: Howard Yamaguchi and Whitney Schraw

1. Call to Order

Rick Diebold called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Minutes of the February 17, 2004, Meeting

Motion by Bob Peterson, seconded by Sherry Comben, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2004 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Meeting Dates

Pete Garwood noted that the new meeting dates are not good for Bob Atkinson. Howard will send out a survey to allow all members to indicate their availability dates. Rick Diebold noted that the next meeting will be scheduled for the same day next month.

4. Whitney Shraw - CRD

Whitney Shraw, of the Community Resource Development (CRD), introduced herself. She is currently assisting with grant writing and community organizing. She hopes to enter grad school in the fall, possibly in the UK. She is just back from serving for a couple of years in Jerusalem, working on similar projects in Palestinian villagers.

5. County Master Plan – Economic Development Objectives

Pete Garwood noted that the document is substantially complete. It is more of a guidance and philosophy document than an action plan, as the actual development projects are typically under the jurisdiction of the local units of government. He suggested sending a copy to the “responsible parties” for comment.

There was some discussion on the need to condense and present some results of the opinion survey and visioning session results, possibly in the appendices. Rick Diebold directed Howard to set up a meeting between Rick, Marshall Wright, Howard, and Pete for the near future.

6. New and Old Business

Pete Garwood briefed the committee on the Poverty Summit he attended in Traverse City in February. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled for May.

Pete and Howard announced that there will be a public information meeting in Traverse City on the proposed bi-County Farmland Preservation Ordinance on March 18. On March 24, at the Peninsula Township Hall, there will be an informational meeting on the tax implications of PDR agreements.

7. Communication and Member Comment

There was no communication this month.

At the suggestion of Allyn Wright, Whitney Schraw recounted her experiences in the Jerusalem and West Bank areas. She described her work with faith-based relief organizations, and some of the difficulties encountered in delivering relief supplies to Palestinian villagers and urban residents under siege conditions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Economic Development Corporation

April 20, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Richard Diebold, Allyn Wright, Sherry Comben, Jerome Simowski, Laura Stanek, Bob Peterson, Tom Lane and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: Robert Atkinson

Others Present: Howard Yamaguchi and Marshall Wright

1. Call to Order

Rick Diebold called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Minutes of the March 16, 2004, Meeting

Motion by Pete Garwood, seconded by Jerry Simowski, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2004 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Meeting Dates

All members turned in the tally sheet with their availability for meeting dates. Valerie tabulated the results. The tentative choice was for the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m., except for the May 2004 meeting, which will be held on the third Tuesday in May to allow Marshall Wright to attend. Final decision will be made at the May, 2004, meeting.

4. County Plan – Economic Development

Marshall Wright explained the steps he will take to augment the current draft of the write-up section of the economic development plan. He will add some references to the results of the county visioning sessions and the opinion surveys.

Rick Diebold noted that Marshall, Howard, Pete Garwood, and he had met the previous day about other additions to the section. He then walked the EDC members through the county economics chapter from *A Housing Needs Assessment for Antrim County, Michigan*, by HomeStretch Housing Development Corp. of Traverse City.

Marshall suggested that we append the chapter from the above study to the economic development plan, and refer to the various tables and data in the chapter. He also noted that the economic development plan may very well be the first chapter of the County Plan to be completed.

6. New and Old Business

Rick Diebold will compose a short letter to Gary Knapp of CRD thanking him for his input.

Pete Garwood announced that the Grand Traverse County Planning Commission will have a public hearing about the Farmland Preservation Ordinance this afternoon in Traverse City.

Pete also commented on the current status of the Mancelona Area Sewer and Water Authority project, and the spate of negative opinions manifested recently in the media.

Laura Stanek commented at length on the unfunded mandate under which dairy and cattle farmers in the region are being required to perform expensive bovine TB testing on cattle destined for the market. She noted that only one case had been confirmed in Antrim County (on a cow confirmed to have been trucked in from out of County), but testing is mandated nevertheless. There is no risk of disease transmission to humans unless the spleen and other internal organs are eaten raw.

Bob Peterson asked about a meeting in Boyne City that afternoon about the Incubator Project by the NLEA. Rick Diebold briefed the EDC about the incubator concept, where new start-ups could share a facility and equipment while they found their feet. Once started, they would move out and make room for other start-ups.

Howard introduced the regional economic forecast document by the Grand Traverse Chamber of Commerce. The document was provided by Terri Crandall-Kimble of the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Economic Development Corporation

May 18, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Richard Diebold, Allyn Wright, Sherry Comben, Jerome Simowski, Laura Stanek, Bob Peterson, Robert Atkinson, Tom Lane and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: **None!!**

Others Present: Howard Yamaguchi and Marshall Wright

1. Call to Order

Rick Diebold called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He noted that this was a rare perfect attendance day.

2. Minutes of the April 20, 2004, Meeting

Sherry Comben noted that Laura Stanek, not Laura Sexton, led the discussion on bovine testing on the second page of the minutes. **Motion by Jerry Simowski, seconded by Allyn Wright, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2004 meeting, with corrections. Motion carried – unanimous.**

3. Meeting Dates

After a short discussion, the second Tuesday of every month, at 8:30 a.m., was confirmed as the regular meeting date.

Motion by Tom Lane, seconded by Robert Atkinson, to set the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. as the new meeting date and time for EDC-BRA. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. County Plan – Economic Development

Marshall Wright explained proposed final draft of the economic development document. He suggested letting the county Planning Commission digest the document, and then have Rick Diebold attend a Planning Commission meeting in mid-summer to present and discuss the document. He also encouraged the EDC to start implementation of the plan without waiting for Planning Commission approval.

Motion by Tom Lane, seconded by Pete Garwood, to recommend to the Antrim County Planning Commission that the document entitled “Economic Development Plan for the County of Antrim” be incorporated into the Economic Development section of the County Plan. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. New and Old Business

Pete Garwood briefed the EDC about the Incubator project of the NLEA. Elk Rapids, Boyne City, Pellston, and two other towns expressed interest in hosting incubators in their communities. Incubator businesses have an 80% survival rate in the wild.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Economic Development Corporation

July 13, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Richard Diebold, Allyn Wright, Laura Stanek , Jerome Simowski,
Sherry Comben, Bob Peterson, Robert Atkinson, and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: Tom Lane

Others Present: Terri Crandall-Kimble

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Minutes of the May 18, 2004, Meeting

Motion by Jerry Simowski, seconded by Robert Peterson, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2004 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. County Plan – Economic Development

Motion by Sherry Comben, seconded by Jerome Simowski, that the Coordinator/Planner office review the Plan and make the necessary changes as directed by the EDC. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Old Business

Pete Garwood discussed a letter he had received from Gary Knapp in response to his letter. Rick Diebold responded to Mr. Knapp's letter.

5. New Business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Economic Development Corporation

October 12, 2004

Minutes

Members Present: Richard Diebold, Allyn Wright, Laura Stanek, Jerome Simowski, Sherry Comben, Bob Peterson, Robert Atkinson, and Peter Garwood

Members Absent: Tom Lane

Others Present: Terri Crandall-Kimble (Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce)

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Rick Diebold.

2. Minutes of the July 13, 2004, Meeting

Motion by Sherry Comben, seconded by Peter Garwood, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2004 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Follow-up to the County Plan – Economic Development

Rick Diebold explained to the EDC that Marshall Wright (County Planning Commission) and he presented the draft economic development plan to the Planning Commission (ACPC). The ACPC accepted the report as part of the master plan, but also requested the EDC for a set of recommendations in implementing the plan. They showed special interest in a full-time marketing person to attract industries to the County.

Howard distributed excerpts from the Planning Commission minutes. The EDC members discussed the appropriate response from EDC to the Planning Commission request. Much of the inability to attract industries here can be attributed to the lack of water and sewer in the industrial park sites. In the current economic climate, the probability of the County hiring a full-time marketing person is nil.

Terri Crandall-Kimble stressed the need to educate the Planning Commission on the current work being done by the NLEA (possibly using their annual report), and making the Planning Commission aware of the work of and resources available from Lydia Murray of “Michigan Works!”, who currently lives in Antrim County.

By way of following up on the ACPC request, EDC will:

1. Arrange for Tom Johnson to brief the ACPC on the current goings-on in the County;
2. Expand materials in the current economic development plan to include the current activities by NLEA and others in economic development (incubators, value-added ag, Chain-of-Lakes study, etc.);
3. Send feelers to the Chambers of Commerce, MI Works!, NLEA, MSUE, and others to convene a County-wide Economic Development Forum; forum will probably be held after the New Year.

Terri also noted that EDC and the economic development community as a whole are not giving Tom Johnson and the NLEA a focused set of instructions and goals. Also lacking is an inventory of facilities and space available in the County for new businesses to locate to. (This and other essentials for new businesses can be an EDC projects?)

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.