REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 4:51 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Jim Branstad, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal, Tom Loveall, Blair Nelson, Steve Rohlfing, Phil Schafer

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic, Ky Battern, Heather Bartelt, Layne Kockelman

There was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

Nelson moved to approve the revised agenda. Boettger seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, 2023 MINUTES

Branstad requested an amendment to the March 8, 2023 minutes to reflect the following change:

"Rohlfing moved to approve Out-of-State Travel request for Alejandra Bejarano to attend the Welcoming Interactive Conference. Branstad seconded. Motion carried. Loveall and Nelson opposed".

Boettger moved to approve the March 8, 2023 minutes with the amendment as presented, Branstad seconded. Motion carried.

V. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Audit Presentation

Battern introduced Layne Kockelman from Abdo, who presented the audit report to the Board. There were no findings. The audit was clean.

Battern noted that Layne Kockelman would also be presenting at the Full Commission meeting directly following this meeting.

B. Recommend Audit to Full Commission

Rohlfing moved to approve the audit to the Full Commission. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Laven informed the Board that he has conducted some research and found that RNDC currently does not have a Code of Conduct policy in place for members of the Commission and RNDC staff. Laven suggested that it would be beneficial for RNDC to adopt a Code of Conduct policy to clearly outline the expectations for everyone going forward.

Nelson made a motion for a Code of Contact policy to be drafted. Rohlfing seconded.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Griensewic noted that Susan Brehm, Chicago Regional Director of EDA, is unable join the RNDC Full Commission due to an illness. Griensewic shared that she hopes to schedule another time for Susan to visit the region and the planned conversations can still take place.

A. Resolution 2023 – 04 – Application to Federal EDA

Griensewic shared the resolution to the Federal EDA for a planning and technical assistance grant with partners such as the MSUM President, SCC President and the City of Mankato for the Center for Global Partnerships. If awarded, the grant would be $97,756 for 18-months. Griensewic shared the work on this grant would utilize Ferrario's time and be part of the goal to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Griensewic shared that FDI has always been a priority of the EDA, however due to staffing and financial limits, FDI has never been tackled. Discussion followed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Dranttel moved to adjourn. Boettger seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Mike Laven

Mike Laven, Chair

Jim Branstad

Jim Branstad, Secretary