

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee
Thursday August 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Eau Claire County Courthouse – Room 1273
Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Members Present: Brett Geboy, James Rolbeicki(v), Sarah Gordee, Becca Coleman, Stella Pagonis

Members Absent: Timothy Davis

Others Present: Rod Eslinger (Planning & Development Director), Scott Allen (West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Com)(v), Luke Hanson (EC Area Economic Development), Mike Golat (City of Altoona)(v), Garrett Zastoupil (UW-Extension)(v), Kennedy Domerchie (Visit Eau Claire)(v), Kathryn Schauf (County Administrator), Sue McDonald (clerk)
(v)=virtual attendance

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Brett Geboy called the Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. and confirmed the meeting notice.

Review/Approval of July 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Becca Coleman the minutes were approved via voice vote.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Economic Development in the Eau Claire County Community: Economic Development Corporation – Luke Hansen, Executive Director.

Luke discussed four pillars of ECAED

1. Business Recruitment.
2. Business Expansion
3. Entrepreneurs
4. Place making

Industrial development discussion:

-Gateway Industrial- Looking to expand the part of Gateway that is in EC county – No property in EC county left that is available, only Chippewa county space.

-Looking at other spaces. Looking for large parcels of contiguous acres. 100+ acre minimum

-Planning and development will share asset inventory from 2018.

-Acquisition planning should be considered should a parcel come up that would be desirable.

-Discussion on potential projects that could be considered if there was sufficient power and water resources available.

-Funding is minimal for economic development. ECAED would request assistance to acquire industrial land as primary need as well as funding. Incentives are a good option for recruiting.

-Educating decision makers is critical because of push back from public.

Review of County Comprehensive Plan in relation to economic development. Rod Eslinger, Director of Planning and Development.

Review of goals and objectives of comprehensive plan- updated in 2021

4 goals

County communication is important to keep all various entities up to date and to keep projects moving forward

Future Agenda Items:

Next - West central Wisconsin regional planning -WCWRPC

Future- Rural partners network – multiple community agencies. 8 counties involved

Future- UW-Extension Economic development

Next meeting Thursday September 12, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Submitted by Sue McDonald, Clerk