

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

April 3, 2023 | 1 p.m.

Location: Board of Commissioners Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Term Expires	Present/Absent
Tom Stanek, Chair	2/13/2027	P
Rodney Dragicevich, Vice Chair	2/13/2026	P
Carrie Troyer, Treasurer	3/13/2024	A
Zachary Morris, Secretary	2/13/2024	P
Daywi Cook, Board Member	2/13/2024	A
Kurt Doroh, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Stephanie Timmer, Board Member	2/13/2028	P
Mike Toth, Board Member	2/13/2028	P

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Sarah Snoeyink, Programs and Projects Manager at Market Van Buren
- Katie Multhauf, Economic Development Manager at Market Van Buren

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Kurt Doroh moved to approve the meeting agenda. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the March 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Introduction of Katie Multhauf

Zach Morris introduced Market Van Buren's newest staff member, Katie Multhauf. Ms. Multhauf is the new Economic Development Manager. She shared some of her work background and her gratitude for the new position.

Open Issues

Palisades, Broadband Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update about the decommissioning process for Palisades. Holtec is still waiting to hear from the Department of Energy. We could hear back as late as the end of the summer. Holtec has been meeting regarding staffing concerns and does not believe there will be a problem finding staff if Palisades does reopen. There will likely not be a PCAP meeting until a decision is made by the Department of Energy.

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding broadband. MEC submitted a significant ROBIN grant to the state. Market Van Buren is supporting DCS Technologies with ongoing projects including another upcoming grant called BEAD. Comcast is possibly looking to utilize Van Buren County funds to service homes in South Haven Township.

Mr. Doroh requested an updated report for the township supervisors since DCS Technologies was not represented at the last township supervisor's meeting.

Financial Update

Mr. Morris gave a brief update regarding the Revolving Loan Fund and the County Strategic Fund.

a. Revolving Loan Fund

Mr. Morris gave an update about the refinance agreement with the County and delinquent loans. He is continuing to work with the attorney to adjust some of the invoice numbers. A partial payment from RNS has been received.

b. County Strategic Fund

Sarah Snoeyink gave an update regarding the County Strategic Fund. Financial reports were not available in time for the meeting but will be shared with the board later this week. Ms. Snoeyink shared that it appears the pattern of securing roughly \$1,200 each quarter for the County Strategic Fund will hold true for quarter one of 2023, which just ended.

Ms. Snoeyink also provided a rough draft regarding how the County Strategic Fund can help inform future members and staff of the EDC Board. This draft includes keywords and phrases, background detail, a mechanism for defederalization of revolving loan fund monies, general management of the strategic and revolving loan fund, and assessment tools for new funding sources and usage of proposed county strategic funds.

Ms. Snoeyink asked the board to consider how they would define strategic priorities and how they can utilize/support these funds properly.

Discussion followed among the EDC Board members regarding concerns about the loan portion of the rough draft.

Mr. Morris will bring an updated draft to present to the board at the May meeting.

Community Grant Development Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding community grant developments. Market Van Buren hosted the 3rd Annual Municipal Summit two weeks ago. Over 50 municipal leaders attended representing Cass and Van Buren Counties.

The Village of Lawton, Covert Township, and The Lucky Wolf Cafe in the Village of Paw Paw were all awarded the Revitalization and Placemaking Grant. Van Buren County submitted four applications for blight elimination projects. Three of the applications were accepted. The Make It Van Buren Craft Beverage Coalition will most likely secure funds from the Economic Growth Institute.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Mr. Morris gave a brief update regarding economic development. Mr. Morris will be announcing a few new projects in the coming months and Ms. Multhauf will be involved in helping with those projects.

Adjournment

Rodney Dragicevich moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2023 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

5-1-2023

Date