

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

July 10, 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	P
Zachary Morris, Secretary	2/13/2024	P
Daywi Cook, Board Member	2/13/2024	P
Kurt Doroh, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
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
- Lorna Nenciarini, Van Buren County Finance Director
- Sharon Woods, LandUseUSA
- Sarah Snoeyink, Programs and Projects Manager at Market Van Buren
- Trisha Nesbitt, Van Buren County Treasurer

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Kurt Doroh moved to approve the meeting agenda. Mike Toth supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mike Toth moved to approve the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Open Issues

MDARD Grant: Residential Target Market Analysis (TMA)

Sharon Woods with LandUseUSA presented housing studies and data to support a MDARD grant. She explained the importance of conducting a market study. For Van Buren County to

participate in this study it is projected to be \$150,000 total. The grant would cover \$50,000 and the county would need to match the grant. The grant application is due August 3. Kurt Doroh moved to recommend the proposed study to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners. Paul Schincariol supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Palisades, Broadband Update

Sarah Snoeyink gave an update about the decommissioning process for Palisades. Palisades secured state funding for \$105 million dollars in the first phase of funding.

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding broadband. Midwest Energy Communications has been tentatively awarded over 3,400 locations in Van Buren County through the ROBIN grant program. The locations are currently open for a challenge period. Final awards will be issued in August. MEC will have a townhall meeting with the townships that committed to the ROBIN grant matching funds. This meeting will be held on July 13 both virtually and in-person at the Van Buren County ISD.

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.

Mr. Daniels with RNS Packaging did not attend the refinancement meeting that was scheduled for today. The board agreed to sign the current refinancement document and send it to Mr. Daniels with RNS Packaging. Van Buren County and the EDC Board will send out the refinancement document with a letter stating that RNS Packaging has 10 days to sign the document. Daywi Cook made a motion to send RNS Packaging the refinancement document and a letter stating they have 10 days to sign the document. Kurt Doroh supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

b. County Strategic Fund

There are no updates at this time.

Community Grant Development Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding community grant developments. The Village of Bloomingdale submitted a grant for Haven Park improvements and depot repairs through the RAP grant program.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

There are no updates at this time.

Adjournment

Rodney Dragicevich moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m. Mike Toth supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2023 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

9-11-2023

Date