

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

June 3, 2024 | 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
Zachary Morris, Secretary	2/13/2024	P
Daywi Cook, Board Member	2/13/2024	P
Kurt Doroh, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
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
- Katie Multhauf, Economic Development Manager
- Courtney Michalka, Community Development Manager at Market Van Buren
- Lisa Ransler, Van Buren County Community Services Director

Call to Order

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the meeting agenda. Mike Toth supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dragicevich moved to approve the May 2024 meeting minutes. Stephanie Timmer supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Open Issues

Palisades, Broadband Update

There are no major updates at this time. Mr. Morris announced that Wolverine Power Cooperative, who bought the Palisades Power Plant will be sending their COO to Market Van Buren's Annual Awards Event as the keynote speaker on Wednesday.

No current updates at this time. Steady work has been going on to fulfill the ROBIN grant.

Financial Update

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

a. Revolving Loan Fund

New Age Laboratories – Consideration of loan agreement

Mr. Morris is continuing to work with the attorney regarding New Age Laboratories. There is a willingness from the owner to work with us. Mr. Morris presented the rough draft agreement to the board. Mr. Dragicevich wants us to make sure we know how much New Age owes the lender and that we are on the title for the vehicle. Mr. Morris said the next step of this process would be to take this to the Board of Commissioners once we get all of the appropriate documents from the attorney.

Courtney Michalka gave a brief update on other business loans. Monthly invoices are being sent out to all of the loan borrowers. Mitaine (Nonla) in Mattawan is planning to sell to another employee, so the business should stay open. She reached out regarding the remaining loan payment. There are a few loans that are behind, but she has been implementing the late fees and reminder process.

Loan Prospects

Mr. Morris and Katie Multhauf said we may have several new loan prospects down the pipeline.

b. County Strategic Fund

Market Van Buren has a meeting scheduled with Lisa Ransler next week to discuss moving funds over to the Strategic Fund. We will have documents ready for the board in August.

Community Grant Development Update

Courtney Michalka gave an update regarding community grant updates. She continues to grow relationships with the community- local government and small businesses. Our team and MDARD are working on a grant opportunity application with Burnette Foods.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Ms. Multhauf gave an update on economic development. She will be adding a new column to the economic development dashboard in the coming months. Ms. Multhauf has been connecting with new businesses in the community. We partnered with the South Haven Chamber and HR Collaborative to hold a high-risk workshop to help small businesses navigate risk scenarios. Ms. Multhauf attended the April MEDC Site Selector Conference in Atlanta which equipped her with new connections and the tools for attracting new site selectors to our area.

Other Issues/Public Comment:


Daywi Cook brought up the concern about the grid being able to hold all of the upcoming energy and possible data centers.

Adjournment

Mr. Dragicevich moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. Mr. Morris supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2024 at 1 p.m.

The board decided to cancel the July meeting, so the next meeting will be August 5, 2024 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

8-5-2024

Date