

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RICHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**Monday, June 8, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. in City Council Chambers
Municipal Building, 450 S. Main Street, Richland Center, WI 53581**

Chairman Mike Breininger called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Mayor Todd Coppernoll, County Board Chair - Marty Brewer, RED Chairman - Mike Breininger, Bruce Kaasa, Eric Klang, County Administrator - Clint Langreck and City Clerk/Treasurer - Melinda D. Jones

Member Bruce Roesler was absent.

Roll Call determined quorum was present and City Clerk/Treasurer – Melinda Jones indicated that the meeting had been properly noticed

Review and approval of previous meeting minutes dated 5/4/2020:

Motion was made to strike the text “It was asked by the County Clerk to determine procedures for payment of bills and the consensus was to have the Audit Committee approve bills.” from the purchasing policy discussion and approve as amended.

Motion by Todd Coppernoll to approve meeting minutes as amended

Second by RED Chairman Mike Breininger

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Brief introductions of people in the room.

Discussion of Near Term Priorities for EDD

- COVID Response
- New business and expansions
- Discussion on continuing to increase the spread of communication from the RED Office. Work to build email lists and increase Facebook reach. Work with Marty Richards to attain his email list of Richland County businesses and work to grow the list. Possibly work with other departments or individuals who have a significant Facebook presence to see if we can expand the RED communication reach.
- Idea of having a discussion with industry leaders to see if there is anything we can do to help them get workers back to work. Indication that unemployment benefits during the COVID response seem to have been disincentivizing people to look for work.
- Broadband Discussion – Gov. Evers announced a new broadband expansion grant program. Eastern part of Richland County has very bad connection. Suggested that EDD – Glasbrenner should consider contacting Dave Banger of Y Connect as well as Bug Tussell to see if there are things we can do to encourage more broadband. There are several different types of grants for different entities. There is fiber cable to Twin Bluffs but we are not sure if it is being utilized. Broadband is a long term project to be aware of.
- CDBG Close for Richland County
 - This is an ongoing project that needs focus in order to retrieve \$1.2million in funding for applicable projects
 - The City Auditorium accessibility issue could potentially be considered.

- New Ag Agent – Administrator Langreck would like to facilitate a connection between EDD Glasbrenner and the new Agricultural Agent for the County.

Future discussions of the RED Board will be around midterm and long-term initiatives.

Important connections for EDD Glasbrenner to consider and make;

- Speak to the County Board
- He has already spoken to the City Council
- Connect with the industries in Richland Center Schreiber, Rockwell, Foremost, MPC, Alcam.
- Try to meet one new business owner per week

Report from EDD

- RED Budget spread sheet was reviewed in meeting – There were no expenses to be submitted for this meeting.
- Hours worked by Glasbrenner over the last two pay periods were 115 and 108.75 hours.
- The new ED Project Evaluation Form was reviewed by the board. The form outlines critical data that will be gathered for every new project the RED Office handles. It allows for an objective review of the facts so that well informed decisions can be made on whether or not a project should be supported.
- There has been a lot of effort put into clarifying work flows and implementing systems for project development.
- Brief project updates were given on:
 - The Dialysis Center development on Orange St.
 - Panorama Estates next building likely to be in Spring 2021
 - Possible interest in the Movie Theater
 - The Sears business
 - Possible Housing development project
 - Possible expansion of a local business
- The Savion Solar project that was previously discussed and approved at the county level. Alliant Energy has publicly reported that they have agreed to purchase the Savion project. At the completion of the solar project the county / township will receive \$4000 per megawatt produced in the form of an energy credit. This should equate to \$200,000 per year and will be for the life of the project which is approximately 35 years. If everything stays on track the project should be under construction in Spring of 2021.

Discussion on acquiring printer / copy machine for the RED Office. Information provided on lease vs. outright purchase was reviewed and the outright purchase appeared to be a better deal. EDD Glasbrenner had reviewed the printer and purchase details with the County MIS Team. They are suggesting an HP unit.

Motion was made for the approval of an expenditure of up to \$2000 to purchase and HP Color LaserJet printer / copier / scanner, an extra set of toners and a box of paper.

Motion by County Board Chair Marty Brewer

Second by Mayor Todd Coppernoll

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

There was a draft sheet of potential Richland Economic Development logos that was produced, circulated and reviewed. People favored logo F on the sheet of seven options.

Motion made by Mayor Coppernoll to adopt logo F as the official logo for RED.

Second by County Board Chairman Marty Brewer

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Motion was made to adopt a procedure for processing expenditures for the RED Office. The stated process is that all bills of the RED Office will be reviewed for approval on a monthly basis by voting members of the board. Upon approval the bills will be forwarded to the County Audit Committee for review and payment.

Motion made by County Board Chairman Marty Brewer

Second by Mayor Coppernoll

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Discussion about future ED Events or activities

- Possible press releases with the Observer and interview time with WRCO to promote Economic Development in the county.

Mayor Coppernoll and City Clerk Melinda Jones both commented that they felt that the Economic Development position and EDD Glasbrenner were working out very well.

It was discussed that EDD Glasbrenner would need to produce a proposed budget for the next fiscal year operation of the RED Office / Department. The budget will be reviewed at the next RED Committee meeting in July.

Next meeting will be the third Monday of July (July 20th) at 1pm at City Hall

Motion to Adjourn was made by Mayor

Second by County Chairman Marty Brewer

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm