

# Richland Economic Development Board

## Meeting Minutes – Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Richland Economic Development Board met on **Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Council Chambers of the Richland Center Municipal Building, 450 S Main Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.**

**Mission Statement:** Fostering a community of Opportunity, Success, & Excellence

*Board Members Present: Mike Breininger- Chairman, Marty Brewer- County Board Representative, Todd Coppernoll -City Mayor, Clint Langreck - Richland County Administrator, Ashley Oliphant - City Administrator, Kari Honer - Financial Rep., Don Fieldhouse - Retail Rep., Al Lins – Agriculture Rep., Rufus Hauke – Non-Profit Rep.*

*Director Jasen Glasbrenner - Present*

*Board Member Absent: Eric Klang - Manufacturing Rep., Bruce Roesler - Healthcare Rep.*

1. Call to order and confirm that the meeting has been properly noticed – J. Glasbrenner confirmed
2. Approve previous meeting minutes from July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - Motion by: M. Brewer
  - Second by: D. Fieldhouse
  - Vote: Passed Unanimously
3. Approval of Agenda
  - Motion by: M. Brewer
  - Second by: K. Honer
  - Vote: Passed Unanimously
4. Discussion and possible action – Seating of new Board members;
  - Alan Lins – Commerce Sector Seat #5 – Agriculture and Foods Representative
  - Rufus Hauke – Citizen at Large – Non-Profit Representative
    - Motion by: M. Brewer – To seat new Board Members
    - Second by: T. Coppernoll
    - Vote: Passed Unanimously
5. Discussion and possible action regarding a WEDC Grant in support of Rockbridge Childcare (*J Glasbrenner & Ela Kakde – WEDC*)
  - Grant being applied for through WEDC is the Idle Sites Grant – Applicants may apply for up to 50% of the eligible costs of redevelopment.
  - Pastor Dan Lewig was present representing Rockbridge Childcare and answered numerous questions about the effort currently being put forth as well as the plans and goals of the project.
  - Hours of operation will be 6:30am to 5:30pm with options for full week, 3 days, and 2 days of care. The capacity would be around 50 children. Also planning for before and after school care.

- Presentation was made by Ela Kakde of WEDC on the need for childcare in Richland County. WEDC has vetted this project and is viewing it very favorably.
  - Rockbridge Childcare must provide and complete the majority of the grant application material but Richland County is the actual grant recipient / administrator and the childcare business is the sub-grantee.
  - The grant amount is estimated to be around \$130,000. Rockbridge must prove that they have their portion of the financing in order to receive the grant dollars.
  - Processing this grant will require time from the Economic Development Director as well as the County Clerk and Administration Team. The application and reporting process is likely to take around 20 hours. There will be other incidental time requirements of the grant.
    - *Motion by: A. Lins to recommend to the County Board that the County participate in the WEDC Idle Sites Grant program for Rockbridge Childcare and that Economic Development Director J. Glasbrenner take a supportive role in the grant application and administration.*
    - *Second by: T. Coppernoll*
    - *Vote: By Roll Call - Passed Unanimously*
6. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2023 Budget for Richland Economic Development (*J Glasbrenner*)
- Board members reviewed the Richland Economic Development Budget and Budget Summary sheet that Director Glasbrenner had completed for the County.
    - *Motion by: M. Brewer to Approve the budget documents*
    - *Second by: T. Coppernoll*
    - *Vote: Passed Unanimously*
7. Discussion and possible action regarding the Richland County Financial Reports and possible effects to Economic Development (*RED Board*)
- RED Board discussion around the County's request to "Encourage the RED board to explore a public private partnership where public sources make up half and private sources make up half of the Economic Development budget and return to Finance and Personnel Committee with a report by 10/31/2022"
  - Where does this leave Economic Development? Would the RED Board have to raise the money or would Director Glasbrenner? What would this do to the workload? Prior to 2017 there had not been Economic Development in the County for 5 years and economic growth was stunted.
  - Some people do not understand why the County is funding this effort. At one point in the past the Towns were all approached to be directly involved in funding Economic Development to get it started again; most of them were not interested.
  - Some Counties that have economic development have more municipalities / cities and industries as well as larger populations. This makes it easier to seek out private participation.
  - If the funding is changed the RED Structural Document would need to be changed again.
  - One board member suggested it was not appropriate to ask Director Glasbrenner to go fundraising to pay for his position.

- The county has only a few options to improve their financial position; growth, cuts, and efficiency. Economic Development is critically important to the path forward for the County but it is not feasible to expect new tax revenue from net new construction to fill the financial need of the County.
  - A research team of M. Breininger, A. Lins, K. Honer and Don F. will meet and work towards providing different options for RED funding so that the RED Board can discuss this issue at their September meeting and make a recommendation to the Count Finance Committee.
  - *There was no official action taken by the board.*
8. Discussion and possible action regarding the Richland County Financial Reports and possible effects to the overall economic condition of the County. *(RED Board)*
- Mike B. drafted a County Funding Priority Grid for the County decision makers to consider in their budget deliberations.
  - The board reviewed the grid and agreed that it would be appropriate for the County to consider.
  - *Motion by: Marty B. to forward the Grid to the County for their consideration.*
  - *Second by: K. Honer*
  - *Vote: Passed Unanimously*
9. Confirm next meeting date and time – Sept 12<sup>th</sup> – 9am – City Municipal Building
10. Adjourn
- *Motion by: A. Lins*
  - *Second by: T. Coppernoll*
  - *Vote: Passed Unanimously*

*Minutes prepared by Jasen Glasbrenner, Director of Richland Economic Development*