

## **IRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Iron County Courthouse**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

*Approved: Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Rick Boes.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
3. **Acknowledge proper meeting posting:** Joe Miller acknowledged.
4. **Roll Call:**

*Iron County Board of Supervisors:* Doug Swartz, Larry Youngs, Roy Haeger, Rick Boes, Jamey Francis

*Chambers of Commerce:* Melissa Copp- Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce (virtual), Gary Pelkola- Hurley Chamber of Commerce

*Business Owners:* Ken Saari, Adam Tutt, Autumn Hill, Karl Zinsmaster, Carly Lanctoe, Neil Gilbertson, Brooke Gilbertson, Julie Doucette

*Community Members:* Julia Pusateri, Joel Enking, Avery Koski, Jovan Andjelich, Lisa Taylor UW-Extension, Joseph Miller UW-Extension

5. **Public Comment:**

None.

6. **Approval of minutes from December 18, 2024 Economic Development Committee Meeting:**

Motion by Doucette, seconded by N. Gilbertson. Motion carried.

7. **Approve Mission and Vision Statement**

Accepted as written in minutes from December 18, 2024.

8. **UW-Extension Rural Entrepreneurial Ventures Program Presentation**

Presentation given by Lisa Taylor. Discussion and questions followed. Cohort applications are due by March 4 to begin in May/June 2025.

9. **Broadband Committee restructuring**

Broadband Committee will be joined with the Economic Development Committee.

BEAD grant application opened to provide funding for broadband services (\$1 billion to Wisconsin) due February 25. County has endorsed Norvado and Brightspeed.

Committee: Roy Haeger, Julia Pusteri, Adam Tutt, Joel Enking, Jamey Francis, Joe Miller

10. **USDA Rural Partners Network January 10, 2025 meeting report**

Report given by Autumn Hill. Miller following up on potential housing study in Iron County.

11. **Discussion of grant funding opportunities**

Hill reports 2025 AARP Community Challenge Grants, Demonstration Grant funded by Microsoft, and AARP Flagship Grant Program.

Miller receiving feedback regarding grant opportunities and finding grants.

Doucette reached out to Northwest Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan.

**12. Discussion of social media channels, Facebook page name**

Update from Rebecca Holm provided by Miller. County website updated to include phone number and Board members.

Facebook- name of the page to be determined later, content to include original content focused on resources, encouraging engagement from public and businesses about potential gaps, and raise awareness of the committee and its mission and its meetings

**13. Discussion of organizational survey**

Identification survey sent out. 12 responses received. Will resend to current participants.

Need to develop service maps (electrical, sewer, water, etc) for county land and Development Zone that is currently available. Follow up with Neil Martinko.

Identify information gaps (capacity for service opportunities, program opportunities, available resources)

**14. Questions/Comments from Committee Members**

REV- apply for the City of Hurley; Ken Saari, Julie Doucette/Brooke Gilberston/Neil Gilbertson, Rick Boes, Jamey Francis, Autumn Hill, Julia Pusateri interested in serving in core leadership.

**15. Next meeting date and time:** date to be determined at Mercer Community Center.

**16. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm by Larry Youngs.

*Minutes recorded by Julia Pusateri, reviewed by Joseph Miller*