

Monroe County Economic Development Committee Meeting May 10, 2018

Present: Nodji Van Wychen, Dean Peterson, Mark Halverson, John Hendricks, Tonya Townsell, Tina Thompson, Steve Peterson, Jim Bialecki, Nicole Vik-Evans Printing, Lisa Hanson

The meeting was called to order at the Century Foods International conference room by Nodji Van Wychen at 9:02

Tour/Business Spotlight: Bob Jones-make muscle milk and other protein powders that are sold at GNC.

Election of EDCT Vice Chair: Mark Halverson nominate Dean Peterson, second Tina Motion carried 7-0

Establishment of Monthly Meetings Date/Time: Second Thursday of the month, next month June 14th-
Where- Unimin Tina will confirm and let know Lory know.

Minutes Approval April 12, 2018: Motion Dean Peterson Second Tina Thompson Carried 7-0

Financials/Invoices: Bike Me Fund registration was paid.

Administrators Report: Rolling Hills is still in the works. Highway B has lots of time yet to decide on. Property for parking downtown-not convinced it's needed at this time. Looking at a house by the Administrative Center to home Zoning, Sanitation and UW Extension staff. Would like to bring back Jason Gilman to come and talk about housing development for the area. Bigger cities are coming in on the smaller cities. Concerns with the farming industries that need to be addressed. Jason has been the Land Use planner for the City of La Crosse for three years. It would pay for itself with a good planner.

EDCT Coordinators Report:

Monthly report-activities are very high. Going across the river to get them involved. TID was approved in Tomah along I-90. Industrial Park is moving along. The progress is moving along quicker than was expected.

Cashton-new child care center where Pasture Pride building was. Cashton has had quite a bit of growth-new bank building to start early July. Two story bank with three business along with it.

Wilton-Cooperative, new warehouse next to the feed mill.

Graceland Fruit in Wilton-hoping to get a tour in within the next month.

Lou Guard de Reunion meeting-Hispanic population, grasp on what they want to do-step up and not just work on farms. Give them the tools and be educated to work in higher paying fields. The kids cannot

communicate with their parents very well. They have a language barrier. Sanchez-his contract comes to an end when the school contract comes up.

Job incentive group-talk about what their needs are for employee retention and getting people hired. Education and workshop for getting people hired and employee recruitment and retention. Child care and housing being an issue.

Map N Tour-is getting big time reviews and used a lot. Some things need to be fixed but it will be evolving more as it goes along and reaching out to the villages, every business in the village will be added to the map. More time will be involved with getting the information onto the map. Upgrade commercial site. Spec building on the map for Tomah and they can visual see how it will look on that piece of land.

Bus tour-138 people attended. Health care, agriculture. 5 new advisory committees with people that attended. They will be gathering together for the next month to get topics together.

Foxcom-get on the supply chain and be involved as they want to use Wisconsin businesses first before they go outside the state. Encouraging business to sign up.

Long range plan for Hwy 27 goes from B to 21 but not the other direction. Requested that Steve be a mediator for the group. Take all the weight off Montgomery and run it out to 27. Lots of things that need to be discussed before anything can take place. T-Grant money could be available to use for the bridge replacement. Coincide with the school being done.

Land Use planner would be able to get the citizens involved and plan out who is going to pay for it and where it would run through. Find money to help assist with the funding-grants. There will be development going on in that area and would help elevate the traffic issue. Good road all the way to 21. General Ave is not wide enough and the hill. Meeting in June.

Nodji asked if Steve's report can be included with the agenda for next month.

5 Minute Reports:

- 7 Rivers Alliance: Rushford MN nominated to the board. Jim Hill retired LADCO and his position is going to be open. May23-Work Force Summit-go to the website to register.
- Hidden Valleys: Tina will send the report.
- ITBEC: Meet at Viroqua- Jim Ehram is Chair, Sharon Folcey is Vice Chair-Ray Ramson-Second Chair. Recruitment with the members in LaCrosse the end of September. We should have a booth there to get good exposure. Send out card and have them bring it to the booth for a prize. Next month meeting at Lunda Center in Black River Falls.
- Local History Room: A to Z new exhibit will go into effect in June. Program going on tonight-Natural Disasters. Working on the Wegner Grotto area for drainage-water has been draining into the monument and it is deteriorating the monument. Working with the DOT.
- Fort McCoy: May 19th 9-3 Armed Forces Day. The road in front of where everything is going is being redone. Working on confirming the meeting at Ft. McCoy.

Recruitment-

7 additional houses-still in the works. Will bring it up to 21 houses for families.

Erroneous information going around-Ft. McCoy drinking water is safe! They didn't explain it well before it was put out to the public.

Wisconsin Master Farmers will be touring Ft. McCoy-Nodji will be part of the group.

- Sparta Chamber: City is in the middle of Hwy 27 project. Round about by Kwik Trip-Wisconsin and Black River is going through changes as well. New Industrial park-bids came in low enough to do the whole project.

Fast Corp-all the Bucky's were made in Sparta.

Wisconsin PBS show-coming and filming for four days. Discover Wisconsin is coming a couple times during the summer.

Busy preparing for Butter Fest.

Bike Me Fund Me Ride-online registration No event on Friday night-doing fish fry at American Legion instead. Saturday is the same with pancake breakfast. Tommy Thompson will take the lead on the ride in Elroy. Fundraiser for EMS and First Responders. Nothing on Saturday night.

- Tomah Chamber: Registration open for 4th of July parade. Tomah received a \$250,000.00 grant which was featured on the news this last week.

Job Career fair-400 kids attended. Had to turn away some vendors as we didn't have room for them- 70 people from the public. Small scholarship to students.

Best Renovation Award-April 27th for the remodel of the building.

July 20th Golf Outing Super Hero Theme

Pop up Happy Hour May 16th. Business after 5 wasn't getting a very good turn-out

June 2 Kite Fest-will bus over to the grounds.

Music on Milwaukee Street-3 bands to perform-in place of the concert at McCoy. Tickets are \$10 in advanced and \$15 at the door.

Brat Sale June 7th-give back to the Public Works department-Tina's office.

Business for Sale-Farmers Construction is no longer operating. Big loss for the area.

- Upcoming Events/Activities: Vino fest Gem Grant-working with bigger business to get involved. Booklets are going out. The media is stepping up. Insurance companies sponsoring shuttle buses. Lots going on in the background.
- Warrens: Sesquicentennial - Memorial Day at the cemetery. Chicken Q and big Sesquicentennial cake

June 12th committee-seeking oldest resident and couple from Warrens.

May 15 at 5 pm dedicate a commemorative area next to the Cranberry Discover area. Flags up until Labor Day. Nancy Vandemeer coming. Highlight 9 different business/organizations each to spend 10 minutes highlighting their businesses. Tim Evans and local papers there.

June 30th Cranberry Blossom Day-free tours 9-10 then go in and doing food demonstrations and samples 10-10-30. Walk thru then head down town Warrens to explore the Cranberry Discovery Center.

Many varieties of cranberry ice cream, gummies, candy and floats.

Next Meeting: June 14th @1:00 pm

Adjourned Motion Dean Peterson Second Mark Halverson, Carried 7-0 Meeting ended at 10:25 am.