

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Room B30, West Square Building  
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Monday, April 22, 2013

Members present: Marty Krueger, Donna Stehling, Joe Fish, Brian Peper, Dave Riek, Gerry Lehman, Dennis Polivka  
Members absent: none  
Others present: Kathy Schauf, Laurie Hasenbalg

The meeting was called to order and certification of Open Meeting compliance was given at 6:30 p.m. **The agenda was approved on a motion by Fish, second by Riek.**

**The meeting minutes from the prior meeting were approved on a motion by Fish, second by Riek. Motion carried.**

### Public Comment

None.

### Communications

None.

### Update on Rails and Trails

Chair Krueger continues to monitor status with state budget. Offered clarification regarding the surety of funding in the state budget for rail, with the understanding that the budget is still in the works. The bonding is not in jeopardy.

Donna Stehling reported on visits with legislators that highlighted the importance of rail purchase and trail development. Legislators indicated that the county has support for this endeavor. Dana White-Quam updated local interest groups in the Sauk Prairie area.

Discussed future vision for potential trail and how the county would interact with other partners to encourage and participate in trail creation and development.

**Discussion and consideration of potential uses /re-uses of the closed landfill property.** Chair Krueger updated on next steps – meeting with Town of Excelsior.

### Request of Fox Heritage Parkway

Donna Stehling updated the committee on research regarding what is meant by a “National Heritage Area”. Riek also offered support. Supervisors agreed that Sauk County has a lot of heritage and conceptually developing heritage opportunities is important in the County. Concerns were raised by Polivka, Lehman, Fish, Peper, and Krueger regarding the intent and purpose of inclusion in the parkway as proposed. **Motion by Peper, second by Polivka, to deny the request for \$150 and partnership support for the Fox Heritage Parkway. Motion carried.**

### Discussion of projects and priorities:

Krueger updated the committee on strategic issues, and talking points as a way to introduce the topic.

Economic Development	<p>Working with Sauk County Development Corporation to market Sauk County as a preferred place to live, work and visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SCDC hired new Exec Dir, begins 4/29;</li><li>• SCDC Board visioning and strategic planning, identified goals and performance benchmarks to attain next year;</li><li>• Continue and build on fall leadership theme, “Economics of Place”;</li><li>• Now is the time to take the concept and begin promoting Sauk County with professional marketing effort. Joint expenditure by SCDC partners – branding.</li><li>• Bring SCDC, UW-Extension, and County resources together (\$\$’s and staff);</li></ul>
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Economic  
Development

As a key economic driver for the future: Work with Public Service Commission, state, and other partners to identify need for broadband and mobility access. Analysis of where broadband services within Sauk County are either lacking and/or under served.

- Different opinions about need for availability and level of service across the county;
- Assessing need and link to future development;
- ED in rural areas will probably not occur without access to high-speed internet and broadband;
- Working with partners to identify gaps in service – attract providers to fill in holes;
- UW-Extension, Andy Lewis, & PSC, “Linking Rural Wisconsin to Global Marketplace”;
- Committee believes that necessary funds should be committed

Peper will ask for the Highway and Parks Committee to consider working with Economic Development to investigate options for Wiedman’s Woods.

**Motion by Lehman, second by Peper, to adjourn the meeting to May 22, 2013. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Stehling

Economic Development Committee Secretary