

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

West Square Building, Rm 213

505 Broadway Street, Baraboo, Wisconsin

December 18, 2017

Economic Development Committee Members Present Marty Krueger (arrived 4:06), Dennis Polivka, Peter Vedro, Andrea Lombard, Nathan Johnson.

Others Present Brian Simmert, Alene Bolin, Lisa Wilson, Ed White, Gary Becker, Pat Cannon.

At 4:01 p.m., Vice Chair Johnson called the Economic Development Committee meeting to order and certified compliance with the open meetings law.

Adopt Agenda Motion by Polivka/Andrews to adopt the agenda. Motion carried, all in favor.

Public comment None

Communications None

### Discussion of Future Regions Project

- a. Gary Becker, Exec. Director Local Government Institute. Becker provided a background and work of the Local Government Institute. Spoke about local governments working together to be viable for the long term and provision of funds for groups of local governments to work on an initiative in their region: the Future Regions Project. Currently there is an opening for a rural initiative and that Sauk County may be a possible location. Becker spoke in more detail about the process and spoke about total costs being between \$35,000-\$45,000. Three 4-hour workshops are provided that focus on trends, scenarios and disruptions, and plan preparation. Staff from the Institute continue to engage for six months post workshops to assist with implementation followed by the issuance of a final report.

Krueger spoke about funding and possible contributions from SCDC and the City of Baraboo. Other towns/villages may also express interest in funding and participating in the initiative.

Discussion ensued as to how this effort contributes to the implementation of the Place Plan.

- b. Consideration and possible action of funding for Future Regions Project.

Motion by Andrews/Polivka to allocate \$9000 contingent on receiving commitment of the additional funds and approval of the application by the Economic Development Committee at their January meeting. Motion carried; Johnson opposed.

### Discussion of County Rural Broadband Expansion Plan

Krueger spoke about the application for a grant to extend fiber in the Spring Green area. Bolin spoke about areas of Sauk County that are not served and the discussion of whether and how to increase service to these areas. The question is: How can Sauk County lend/rent their technology to expand rural broadband expansion? A plan would examine these issues and opportunities and identify what can incentivize broadband expansion. UWEX has plan development capabilities.

Great Sauk State Trail Update

WRRTC will award the contract for the stabilization and removal of the Sauk City Bridge. Dane County will begin discussions on replacing the bridge with a recreational bridge.

Next Meeting Date

January 22, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Polivka/Lombard to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. Motion carried, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Andrews  
Economic Development Committee Secretary