

Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019
Perry County Economic Development Authority

Attendees: Rich Pluta, Greg Gordon, Duane Hertzler, Russ Hoover, Marti Roberts, Patti McLaughlin, Jim Fuller, Frank Campbell, Dawn Lowe, Brenda Watson

Absent: Steve Peters, Emery Yoder, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Shawna Weller

Excused: John Gerner, Mike Lawler, Morgan Tressler, Derek Whitesel, June Reisinger, Paul Rudy

Guests: none

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Roberts at 8:04 AM

Public Comment: none

A general discussion about ad hoc committee work ensued since a quorum had been achieved. A phone call was placed to Morgan Tressler and Mike Lawler asking them to anticipate participating via phone.

- Marti Robert provided an update on LFPP. Over 100 good surveys have been received. PCEDA board members have been at 4 farmer focused events in the community in the last 2 months. We will look at the next steps of this project and report in April. We are on schedule.
- Russ Hoover provided an updated on the tourism group meeting. Next meeting is March 26 at 2. Great start to discussion.
- Morgan Tressler had submitted a written report. First phase was to promote brand to businesses. Next phase is to push brand out to public, create materials and website. Russ Hoover made a motion to retain Gavin Advertising for the work. Patti McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved via a voice vote without dissent with Mike Lawler and Morgan Tressler voted via phone. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the February meeting have been sent in advance of the meeting. Frank Campbell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Greg Gordon seconded the motion. The motion was approved via a voice vote without dissent with Morgan Tressler and Mike Lawler voting via phone.

Treasurer's Report: Patti McLaughlin presented Management Report prepared by the Robert Morris accounting firm, which was distributed to all board members in advance of the meeting. Greg Gordon proposed a motion to accept the Management Report, Rich Pluta seconded the motion. The motion was approved via a voice vote without dissent with Morgan Tressler and Mike Lawler voting phone.

Martha Roberts discussed: In the DCED portion of the budget, \$45,000 was allocated to an ag study if funding for the LFPP study could not be found. Since separate funding for the LFPP has been received, some thought has been given to amending the DCED budget to re-allocate \$45,000 in ag study funding to the Downtown Revitalization effort. Patti McLaughlin proposed a motion to amend the budget to reflect the shift of funding from the ag study to the Downtown

Revitalization study, Russ Hoover seconded the motion. The motion was approved via voice vote without dissent with Morgan Tressler voting via phone.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

- Brenda Watson gave report about Downtown Revitalization ad hoc work group meeting. Marti Roberts advised that she will be meeting with Mandy Book, DCED's Director of the Main Street/Keystone Communities program, to discuss funding and option to manage this effort with one overall manager on a countywide basis because we don't have enough resources to do this at every town. Our current funding streams limits how we can spend the money. We also need to clarify how the "downtown" terminology fits with areas like Loysville and Sherman Dale, that do not have conventional downtowns, or do we limit this to towns with more typical business districts? Frank Campbell was asked to help get the word out to communities, so we have a representative from each borough or municipality. They should be advised that this project may take a while. We will be seeking a designation of "Keystone Community" from DCED for our overall effort. It is possible that in the future our towns may apply for additional funding with the work we will have already done.
- Training Group – no report.
- Greg Gordon advised that he will be working on the business services effort – goal is to help businesses where they're at in the process. We can help them review where they are. Seminars are one thing, but busy business owners don't have time for that. Wants small groups and one on one. Frank gets report of new businesses quarterly. Patti suggested with go to attorneys, accountants to let them know what we have. Scott and Adam do a bunch of these. We need to gather business mentors.

Staff report:

Michelle Jones provided information on her activities relating to Opioid, libraries, projects in schools, moderated chamber series, article in Chamber newspaper tab.

- Frank Campbell said that the Newport Borough has monthly meetings with the school district and edsi. Recently they talked about a program for recognizing youth who are at risk for developing serious issues.
- Frank Campbell and Michelle Jones will meet with SEDACOG regarding their broadband study progress.

Old business:

- Marti Roberts advised that the meeting with the Perry County Fair Board was cancelled because of snow, but she will reschedule to keep the water/sewer project moving forward. Frank Campbell said he will check with Newport Water and Oliver Township Sewer on the status of their work with the Fair Board. We need a total cost estimate and a project summary. PennVest can probably help with this.

New business:

- Friends of Lynn Shaffer Dum asked for letter of support for LS Dum Park for next round of funding. Russ Hoover said he thinks we have some time to develop the letter but wanted to give us a heads up.

Announcements:

- Frank Campbell advised that the Perry County Economic Development Corporation applied for PA Dairy Investment funding for a site feasibility study. The Commonwealth Financing Authority (under DCED) will review the request and make a decision. CFA's January meeting, but he thinks we'll get the money. Mr. Campbell also said the Corporation applied to the Appalachia Regional Commission for matching funds for the study.
- Rich Pluta announced that today is National Ag Day. He also announced that Friday, March 15th is the last day to RSVP for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.
- Jim Fuller advised that he may need help May 23 at 9 AM. The Farm Fest Committee, the Greenwood and Newport FFA organizations are getting together to discuss the Millerstown Community Park project. Six 20-minute sessions are planned with the students. The Farm Bureau will have dairy and hemp information tables set up. The (which) Grange hosts the event and Newport and Greenwood 4th grade students attend.
- Frank Campbell announced that the Landisburg Borough Council voted to prohibit marijuana sales if it becomes legal – including medical marijuana dispensaries, recreational marijuana sales, hemp from farms, etc. They also voted to buy a marker in the LSD Bicentennial plaza about the formation of Perry County.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.