**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**March 13, 2025**

**Perry County Economic Development Authority**

**Perry County Business and Tourism Center**

**New Bloomfield, PA.**

**Attendees:** Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta, Ed Barben, Scott Fritz, Frank Campbell, Patti McLaughlin, Scott Dunkleberger, Duane Hertzler, David Misner, Lindsey Hutchinson

**Virtual participants:**

**Staff:** Michelle Jones, Lisa Fickes

**Absent:** Dee Anderson

**Excused:**

**Visitor:**

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**Tri County report**: Tri-County report: 21 plans so far this year, 3 less than last year. More lots and dwelling units, Last phase of Rockville estates (16 more lots, 26 ahead on dwelling units) . bakery relocation, egg operation in Watts township 71k sq ft, poultry barn. Longanecker phase 2

addition. Karns Solar 1764 panels in business park. Regional transportation plan

complete and should be posted shortly. Picture perry is being updated. 8 municipalities

still haven’t partnered.

Rich asked if Fair Grounds project is in Picture Perry. Jason wants info about money

captured for these projects.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Rich Pluta presented the minutes of PCEDA’s meeting on February 13, 2025, which had been distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. There was a motion to approve the secretary’s report by Rich Pluta and Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Patti McLaughlin presented the treasure report. Normal overhead and payroll for expenses. There was a motion made by Ed Barben, to approve the treasurer’s report, Scott Dunkleberger seconded the motion. Motion to approve carried.
* Motion to open money market account at Bank of Landisburg with Patti McLaughlin and Marti Roberts as signatories, Rich made a motion to approve, Ed Barben seconded the motion. The Motion carried. Patti McLaughlin abstained. All motion were approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Chair Report:**

Marti Roberts reported as follows:

First meeting of 501c3 with attorneys. It might take a while to get c3 designation. Scott

asked if this was umbrella organization and what structure. Rich talked about having

representatives from each organization (chamber, corporation, county, PCEDA) and 3 at

large business reps on new board.

Fair Board: Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta Frank Campbell and Brenda Watson were on the phone with LSA to discuss the fair board’s LSA grant. They suggested the grant be rescoped to the larger fairground project. Currently scoped for a prefab bathroom, but the larger plan is for building 6 to be rehabbed to year-round facility with bathrooms, insulation, kitchen, etc. LSA people approved if the revised project included everything the initiation application did. Met with fairground board. Good discussion about shifting gears on project. They tabled vote. If we move ahead with a capital campaign and do not make the necessary money, they can still have their prefab building. LSA people agreed they could give a one-year extension, if needed. The fair board meets in early April.

Lindsay asked if the fair has capacity and desire to operate year-round. This is part of

ongoing discussion. Not at this point, but they’re starting to think about it. Lindsay

pointed out that we need to help them get to the next phases. Discussion about prevailing wages and how volunteer labor factors in the whole project. Lindsay reminded the board that this project needed to have a larger county-wide benefit, especially with a commercial kitchen. Ed questioned if the fair board understood that we are going to help them. Discussion about whether we should be at the April meeting which will be held Monday April 7th.

There was a motion by Rich Pluta, and Scott Dunkelberger. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Staff Report:**

Updates on Sports Complex, Engage outreach, schools at county.

Scott recommended checking with DCED on spending their money for the Capital

Campaign

**Main Street Coordinator:**

Main Street: An ambassador meeting was held this week. Good, but not great turnout. Good

discussion about sharing ideas.

Blain—will be meeting with the artist to finally finalize the design.

Working to get Main Street website up to date.

Old business: Lindsay asked about making sure board members are involved. She

comes to meetings but feels out of the loop. What should she be doing? Discussion

about what board members should be doing. Lindsay recommended bringing in

diversity in experiences.

**New business**: Liverpool unveiling discussion. Brenda is chair of Hats board for next

cycle. Haven’t had PeCo chair since Mark Keller. Had roundtable act 537 plans. Dep

said the plans are too old and need updated. 2 municipalities are not part of Picture

Perry. There may be 8 municipalities working together on one plan.

Suburban propane is getting new roof, but no one knows what’s going on in there. Mark

Freeland owns it.

Frank reminded: Carroll, Tyrone, Liverpool, Juniata, Rye, Penn, Wheatfield, and Madison northeast.

**Old Business:** None.

**Adjourn:** Patti McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn, Frank Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without dissent at 9:42 am.