

ECVEDD Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, June 10, 2021 Board Meeting (Zoom meeting / Conference Call)

Members present: Erika Hoffman-Kiess, GMEDC – President; Tom Kennedy, MARC – Vice President; Bob Flint, SRDC – Treasurer; Peter Gregory, TRORC – Secretary; Jerry Fredrickson; Marvin Harrison; Sam Hooper; Walter Martone; PJ Skehan;

Others present: Representative Tim Briglin; Allison Hopkins, MARC; Peter Berger; Amanda Porter; Jake Glenshaw; Mark Condon, GMEDC; Rachel Scudder, MARC; Fauna Hurley (on behalf of Representative Welch); Chuck Sherman; Peter Fellows TRORC; Sarah Wraight, TRORC

1. Erika Hoffman-Kiess called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Erika introduced herself as the new Executive Director of GMEDC and shared some of her professional background.
2. Public Comments: None received.
3. Review of minutes from January 28, 2021 Board meeting: Bob Flint moved to approve the January 28th minutes as presented. Jerry Fredrickson seconded the motion. So moved.
4. Board Matters: GMEDC reminded the Board that Adolfo Bailon has left the Board, and she nominated Peter Berger to take his place as a Board member. Peter Gregory made the motion, and Tom Kennedy seconded. So moved.
5. Treasurer's Report: Bob Flint presented a financial report as of December 31, 2020, calling attention to changes between the FY21 and FY22 budgets in the areas of meeting and website (operational) expenses. Tom Kennedy moved to approve the financial report, and Jerry Fredrickson seconded. So moved.
6. Election of Officers: Erika Hoffman-Kiess reviewed the proposed slate of officers for FY22:
 - President: Jason Rasmussen
 - Vice President: Bob Flint
 - Treasurer: Peter Gregory
 - Secretary: Erika Hoffman-KiessWalter Martone moved to approve the slate as presented, and Jerry Fredrickson seconded. So moved.



7. FY21 Grant and Supplemental Grant Project Status Reports by Partners

MARC

- Planning Grant:
 - Staff are drafting a new section of the Regional Plan that will comprehensively address community wellness.
 - Staff are assisting Towns with food access initiatives, as well as incorporating healthy community language and health chapters into their Town Plans.
 - MARC serves on the Community Health Implementation Plan Food Security Working Group and the Rise Vermont Steering Committee, and collaborates with those groups on specific projects. A recent example was the creation of an active winter gear lending library through the Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow.
 - Staff are updating the Economic Development chapter of MARC's Regional Plan.
 - MARC continues its grant administration duties and will be preparing this year's annual report.
- Supplemental Grant:
 - MARC has been conducting outreach to Towns that are most underserved by broadband. Outreach has included needs assessment as well as education about recent state legislation and state and federal funding opportunities.
 - MARC has reached out to ECFiber to explore the possibility of extending the Communications Union District (CUD) into their region.

SRDC

- Staff have provided COVID-recovery technical assistance to over 200 business, providing information and guidance for navigating various assistance programs. Much of this work was done under the auspices of the Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program (ReVTA). Business assistance work is ongoing.
- SRDC is supporting the Springfield Area Working Communities Challenge project, which is focused on removing barriers to sustainable work for people who are low to moderate income.
- SRDC partnered with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to create and maintain a directory of assistance programs, along with a step-by-step guide to accessing those programs. The directory has been made available around the state via the RDCs and the SBDC.
- SRDC served on the Restart Vermont Manufacturing Task Force, which helped businesses navigate rules and regulations and strategize for reopening.



ECVEDD

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

- Staff completed annual data updates for housing sales, trade name registrations, and poverty statistics in the District.
- SRDC continues to support the Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC) Project. The first cohort of companies have completed the Actuator program. Two companies are currently housed at BRIC. SRDC is actively seeking funding for the BRIC Project from various sources, including federal grants.
- SRDC offered a digital skills training course, and 2 of the course graduates were subsequently hired in Vermont. SRDC plans to offer another of these courses as well as summer programming targeted at high school students.

GMEDC

- GMEDC's primary focus has been assistance to anyone in need of guidance or technical assistance to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. An especially important component of this work has been disseminating information about local, state, regional, and federal programs to support businesses. GMEDC helped to administer the ReVTA Program, the 2nd round of economic recovery grants from the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund, and ACCD's statewide recovery grant programs.
- Staff continue to participate in the Upper Valley Economic Disruption Recovery Working Group, which is currently serving as a platform for sharing ideas, and will continue to meet for the foreseeable future.
- GMEDC served as the RDC representative to the Vermont Creative Network Steering Committee and sat in on the 3CVT regional meetings, assisting with the revision and launch of the Create Vermont Action Plan.
- GMEDC has been designing and implementing a series of activities intended to promote utilization of investment capital within our local communities. Future activities are expected to focus on connecting local investors with local businesses seeking capital.
- GMEDC continues to support the development of the Randolph Innovation Hub, and will be seeking funding this fall or early next year.

TRORC

- Planning Grant:
 - Staff have responded to business inquiries and provided technical assistance as needed for economic recovery in the wake of COVID.
 - Staff submitted an EDA creative economy grant application, which was ultimately successful.
 - Staff completed website updates.

East Central Vermont Economic Development District
c/o 128 King Farm Road ~ Woodstock, Vermont 05091



- Staff created a map showing service areas and boundaries for health, prevention, and planning groups.
 - Staff discussed healthy community zoning options with towns.
 - Supplemental Grant:
 - Staff are drafting resilience plan content, and will soon submit draft language to the partners for feedback and input.
 - TRORC provided input on draft state legislation for housing stock improvement initiatives and continued to advise towns on housing-friendly zoning reform.
 - TRORC provided input to the state legislature to support municipal access to COVID recovery funds.
 - TRORC assisted a couple towns with scoping projects that hopefully will be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act allocations.
 - TRORC continued to provide technical assistance to businesses as needed for economic recovery.
8. ECVEDD FY22 Work Plan and Budget: Tom Kennedy provided a brief overview of the FY22 Work Plan and Budget. The proposed FY22 revenue totals \$368,868.29 and proposed FY22 expenses total \$368,649.65. PJ Skehan made a motion to approve the work plan and budget as presented. Sam Hooper seconded. So moved.
9. Workshop: A panel discussion was presented on broadband issues, featuring Clay Pervis of the Vermont Department of Public Service, Representative Tim Briglin, and F.X. Flinn of ECFiber.
10. Adjourned: Bob Flint made a motion at 4:33 PM to adjourn the meeting. Tom Kennedy seconded. So moved.

