



EAST CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

ECVEDD Board Meeting

Minutes of Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Board Meeting 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom and in-person

Physical Location: MARC Conference Room, 38 Ascutney Park Drive, Ascutney

Members present: Jason Rasmussen, MARC – President; Bob Flint, SRDC – Vice-President; Peter Gregory, TRORC – Treasurer; Erika Hoffman-Kiess, GMEDC – Secretary; Jerry Fredrickson; Marvin Harrison; Sam Hooper; Carol Lighthall (joined at 3:13pm); Walter Martone; Joshua “Bushrod” Powers

Others present: Mark Condon, GMEDC; Allison Hopkins, MARC.

1. Jason Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He explained that he and Tom Kennedy had changed positions at MARC thus putting him into the role of ECVEDD President for FY2022. Everyone took turns introducing themselves.
2. **Public Comments:** None received.
3. **Review of Minutes from the June 10th, 2021 ECVEDD Board Meeting:** Bushrod Powers moved to approve the June 10th, 2021 minutes as presented. Sam Hooper seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Peter Gregory presented the Treasurer’s Report through December 31, 2021. He stated that we were right where we should be on the drawdowns from the two main grants for this point of the fiscal year. There were no questions. Bob Flint moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Erika Hoffman-Kiess seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. **Report by Partners on Work to Date:**
 - a. **MARC - Allison Hopkins presented**
 - i. **Supplemental CEDS Grant – Putting efforts towards bringing broadband to underserved communities.**
 - ii. **Planning Grant – Healthy communities work including substance misuse with Mount Ascutney Hospital and Springfield Hospital and updating website with a toolkit; working with TRORC on food security plan including an inventory of programs and will end with an action plan. Working with schools on food backpack programs.**

- b. SRDC – Bob Flint presented**
 - i. Supplemental CEDS Grant – Ongoing assessment of needs for COVID response. Have a business taking a loan from their COVID loan fund. Providing technical assistance to businesses.**
 - ii. Planning Grant – Continue working with Black River Innovation Campus including soliciting a grant to create a podcast studio. Assisting BRIC with their entrepreneurship program. Raised \$1.7MM for brownsfield work on the site and a sprinkler upgrade. Also doing an inventory of adult education in the region to identify gaps.**

 - c. GMEDC – Erika Hoffman-Kiess presented**
 - i. Supplemental CEDS Grant –New GMEDC website has gone live. Communication regarding programs has become very important to COVID response.**
 - ii. Planning Grant - Assisting businesses to access COVID relief programs.**

 - d. TRORC – Peter Gregory**
 - i. Supplemental CEDS Grant – Working on business resilience plan and to implement affordable housing strategies. Assisting towns with their questions.**
 - ii. Planning Grant – Helping towns incorporate health and wellness chapters into their town plans and to adopt smoke-free ordinances. Assist businesses, particularly the creative economy, to access resources. Working with MARC on the food security plan and workshop.**
- 6. Discussion of FY2022 Annual Meeting: The Board discussed potential dates for the Annual Meeting and chose May 26th, 2022. The time will be at 3:00pm if meeting remotely or early evening if in person. The topic of the workshop was discussed with suggestions including healthcare workforce, childcare and housing. It was decided the focus would be on healthcare workforce issues and could bring in people from Gifford and VTC. If the meeting is to be in person, we need a space for around 40-50 people and have catering. Gifford was mentioned as a possible location although it was noted space at a hospital might be difficult if the pandemic does not improve. The decision of in-person or remote should be made by April 15th and a space secured.**
- 7. Other Business – An extension on the CEDS Supplemental grants has been requested to give us another six months to get things done. We have yet to hear back on the request.**
- 8. Adjournment – Bob Flint moved to adjourn. Jerry Fredrickson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.**

