

ECVEDD Board Meeting

Draft Minutes of Thursday, May 26, 2022

Board Meeting 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members present: Jason Rasmussen, MARC – President; Bob Flint, SRDC – Vice-President; Peter Gregory, TRORC – Treasurer; Erika Hoffman-Kiess, GMEDC – Secretary; Jerry Fredrickson; Joan Goldstein; Marvin Harrison; Sam Hooper; Carol Lighthall; Walter Martone; Kristi Morris; Joshua “Bushrod” Powers, PJ Skehan

Others present: Mark Condon, GMEDC; Sarah Wraight, TRORC

1. Jason Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. He explained that the workshop portion of the Annual Meeting is being delayed until Fall due to Covid. Everyone took turns introducing themselves.
2. **Public Comments:** None received.
3. **Review of Minutes from the January 19th, 2022 ECVEDD Board Meeting:** Joshua Powers moved to approve the January 19th, 2022 minutes as presented. Jerry Fredrickson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Peter Gregory presented the Treasurer’s Report through April 30, 2022. He stated that another payment of \$64K for the EDA Supplemental Grant was received in May and thus does not show on the report provided in the meeting packs. Cash on-hand is \$2,780. There were no questions. Bob Flint moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Carol Lighthall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. **Election of Officers:** Carol Lighthall moved to accept the following slate for FY2023 Officers as forwarded- Bob Flint as President, Peter Gregory as Vice-President, Erika Hoffman-Kiess as Treasurer and Jason Rasmussen at Secretary. Joshua Powers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. **Report by Partners on Work to Date:**
 - a. **TRORC – Peter Gregory asked Sarah Wraight to present TRORC’s report**
 - i. **Planning Grant – Have been continuing technical assistance to businesses and municipalities to access Covid recovery funds as well as Brownfields funding. Outreach to the Creative Economy network including future**

business development trainings. Continuing to support the municipal health policies throughout our region. Helped to create a food network inventory.

- ii. Supplemental CEDS Grant – Working on business resilience plan and to implement affordable housing strategies. Assisting towns with their questions. Continuing to help businesses access Brownfields funding. Helping towns navigate ARPA funding.

b. GMEDC – Erika Hoffman-Kiess presented

- i. Planning Grant – Assisting towns to access COVID relief programs as well as serving as a conduit between businesses and the State. Working with TRORC to assist the Creative Economy access private funding resources in the area.
- ii. Supplemental CEDS Grant –New GMEDC website has gone live which she showed the group. It helps us communicate to businesses about programs that are available to them. We will continue to augment the site with case studies.

c. SRDC – Bob Flint presented

- i. Supplemental CEDS Grant – Providing technical assistance to businesses regarding Cares Act programs including the Community Navigator Pilot Program and the Capital Investment Program. Also have done 6 loans on a Care Act Revolving Loan Fund and 3 more in the pipeline.
- ii. Planning Grant – Tracking public assistance statistics and housing prices in the region. Housing prices were higher in the upper part of the district compared to the lower part. Assisting BRIC with their entrepreneurship program including a quantum computing event and an investor event. Have received an earmark through Sen. Leahy for renovations to the property and a CDBG to add a sprinkler system. Also doing a skills gap inventory of adult education in the region.

d. MARC – Jason Rasmussen presented

- i. Supplemental CEDS Grant – Did the administration for this grant. Putting efforts towards bringing broadband to underserved communities. Worked on a food security plan.
- ii. Planning Grant – Secured a contractor to put a health resources landing page on our website. Began researching partnerships with other RPCs on health equity resources toolkit. Worked on food networks including serving on RISE Vermont’s Steering Committee. 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. Worked on health and wellness language for Town Plans. Worked on Healthy Schools partnerships.

- 7. ECVEDD FY23 Work Plan and Budget: Bob Flint referred to the documents in the meeting packets. The Annual Workplan is largely the same as last year. On the Budget there is the regular Planning Grant and then some remaining on the Supplemental Grant as some of the partners have asked for an extension on that work into FY2023. PJ Skehan moved to approve the FY2023 Workplan and Budget. Joshua Powers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- 8. Other Business – Bob Flint said he hoped our next meeting will be face-to-face. Erika Hoffman-Kiess stated she appreciated the collaboration between partners.**
- 9. Adjournment – Bob Flint moved to adjourn. Joshua Powers seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.**

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