

Mineral County Economic Development
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order at by Board President, Kathleen Brown at 1:11 p.m. Roll call was taken, and the following Board members were present:

Board Members

Jim DeBree
Judy Stang
Carol Young
Kathleen Brown
Dan Fultz, via zoom
Erin Woodsen, via zoom
Monte Turner, via zoom
Sharon Patterson
Emily Park, via zoom

Visitors

Gaylene Borden

The Minutes of the March 23, 2022, meeting was approved as presented.

Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Treasurer Sharon Patterson. Sharon noted that check number 1133 was missing.

Old Business

Big Sky Rail Authority – Monte Turner reported

- There will be a summit in August in Billings
- The Authority has hired a professional fundraising business
- Monte is currently serving on the fundraising committee
- Commissioner Roman has been attending the meeting
- A 15 million dollar grant is available to study the economic value to states. Sen Tester is supporting the The Big Sky Rail Authority
- Monte stated that the railroad will not materialize for years into the future

Mineral County Business Directory

- Gaylene Borden has been contracted to collect and sell ads for this directory.
- Currently have collected from 7 business with more to come
- Minuteman Press will be working with Gaylene on bid to print the directory
- 167 emails have been sent

NonProfit Fair

- this has been tabled until June meeting

Board Expansion

- Sharon stated that there is a recommendation in the MCEDC Strategic Plan that our Board be expanded to show diversity. Currently the majority of the Board is over 65 and there is a need for younger participants.

- What should we as current Board members look for in recruiting a new Board member
 - Board Knowledge
 - How to support the quality of life that Mineral County Offers
 - Areas of interest would be infrastructure, forest collaboration, education, community support

New Business

Connect Montana, Emily Reported

- High Speed internet for St. Regis (Pilot program) there is \$400,000 grant with the support of the St. Regis Resort Board of \$100,00 available for this program
- Mission West is writing the grant and MCEDC would be the applicant
- Blackfoot would be providing the connection
- This project has been tabled as Blackfoot want to be a partner. Hopefully, the grant will be submitted in June for the second round of funding.

ARPA Funds

- The competitive grants have been awarded. Alberton ranked 64th and St. Regis ranked 120th. At this time not sure if either project is going to be funded.

CEDS Document

This document is being revised for Mineral County. There are parts of this document that MCEDC will be working on.

Stewardship Grant

- Grant for the Bathrooms at the trailhead of the Route of the Olympian is 5th on the list and will be managed through Mineral County.

Reports

Hospital – Erin Woodson reported

- Ballots for Board Members and mill will be going out in the mail
- There is a blood draw on May 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 14 an appointment is needed
- Hospital has been busy

MCRC – Carol Young reported

- Eco Strat representative met with the MCRC committee regarding the BDO classification rating for Mineral County. Mineral County may not be a good fit
- Red Bull Timber Sale
 - The Federal Fish Wildlife & Parks are saying “no”. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks not accepting the Federal Decision. The Council of Environmental Quality located in the Whitehouse is the Council that is suggesting “No” on Red Bull. A FOYA is being requested to see what science is being used.

Idaho Forest Task Force

Jim DeBree questioned why this task force isn't active. The members of this committee are Jim DeBree, Denley Loge, Roman, Emily (as an advisor) and the County Attorney. Jim will be working to get this task force back on track as it is a shame that way IFG is treating the county and its former employees.

With no other business to come before this Board the meeting adjourned at 3: 30 p.m. The next meeting will be June 22, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Patterson, Sec.

Date May 26, 2022

Approved June 22, 2022