



Huron County Economic Development Board

Minutes – March 9, 2015

Goderich, Ontario

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Goderich, Ontario

March 9, 2015

The Huron County Economic Development Board met in the Committee Room at the Huron County Courthouse on the 9th day of March 2015.

Members of the Board present: J. Lynn, S. Baker, K. Davis, J. Eddington, P.Gowing, J. Grace, T. Hessel, J. Lynn, B. MacLellan, P. Smith, M. Vanderloo

Staff present: Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Orchard, Director of Planning and Development Scott Tousaw, Economic Development Consultant Ron Gaudet, Economic Development Coordinator Natasha Fritzley.

Members Absent: S. Sparling

1. Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Agenda:

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Davis and Seconded by: Member Eddington

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board Agenda for Monday, March 9, 2015 be accepted and all attachments included in the Agenda be received as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof:

None Stated.

4. Minutes Approval:

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Eddington and Seconded by: Member MacLellan

THAT:

The minutes of the previous Huron County Economic Development Board meeting

on February 9, 2015 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

5. Opening Comments (Chair Lynn):

Chair Lynn thanked Board members for their attendance and gave an update on a recent visit from St. Clair College. Four staff members from St. Clair College travelled to Huron County and discussed economic development related ideas and objectives relevant to the community. Chair Lynn also attended the signing of a collaborative partnership between the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich and the Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health in Seaforth. The agreement is intended to promote excellence in rural health care. The partnership will allow for shared research and evidence based training, as well as knowledge transfer into the working environment of an academic small rural community hospital. At this event Chair Lynn had the opportunity to speak with Chris Watson from Engage Huron, a local group whose mandate is to recruit, retain and sustain young adults in Huron County. Chair Lynn relayed that this group is very interested in working with the Board.

6. Process – Define Roles:

Chair Lynn reviewed parameters around representing the Huron County Economic Development Board and the Board's relationship with other economic development related organizations.

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Davis and Seconded by: Member Vanderloo

THAT:

The stakeholder letter presented be sent out on behalf of the Huron County Economic Development Board to a list of key stakeholders that will be developed by CAO Orchard and Staff Natasha Fritzley.

CARRIED

7. Role in Reviewing Funding Requests Referred by County Council:

Chair Lynn reviewed letter received from County Clerk Susan Cronin regarding County grant requests from HealthKick Huron and Blyth ESTC. Discussion around what role the Huron County Economic Development Board could play when it comes to these requests occurred.

8. Current requests included for information purposes only for this meeting

The Board determined that at this point in time not enough information has been provided for a thorough consideration of the HealthKick Huron and Blyth ESTC grant requests. The Board will revisit these items in the future.

A committee was formed consisting of Member Baker, Member Sparling and Member Vanderloo to further review and consider parameters for reviewing requests referred to the Board.

9. Committee Reports:

Board sub-committees provided updates on the following topics:

1. **Planning Approvals:** Staff Scott Tousaw answered Board inquiries related to the local planning approval process. The Board provided feedback and members worked to establish some opportunities for enhanced services and discussed best practices in neighbour municipalities and lower-tiers.
2. **Venture Capital:** The committee continues to explore the venture capital landscape in Huron County and has met with regional groups in an effort to gain knowledge and insight. They continue to develop a white paper.
3. **Education:** The education committee presented a white paper exploring the issue of population retention in Huron County and how the development of a private university could lead to increased professional jobs and thereby population. The committee will continue to pursue information on course content, governance and the business structure of successful private universities. The committee asked that the Board review the content that was distributed and prepare to discuss at the next Board meeting.
4. **Goal Statement:** The committee is working to determine what measurement metrics are relevant in economic development and what will work as an overarching measurable for the Economic Development Board. Staff were asked to present on performance measurement options that were reviewed at the Economic Developers Association of Canada's conference in September 2014 at the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Economic Development Board will be on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Committee Room at the County Courthouse, in Goderich.

11. Adjournment:

The Huron County Economic Development Board adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Chair J. Lynn