



Huron County Economic Development Board

Minutes – June 8, 2015

Goderich, Ontario

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Goderich, Ontario
June 8, 2015

The Huron County Economic Development Board met in the Committee Room at the Huron County Courthouse on the 8th day of June 2015.

Members of the Board present: J. Lynn, S. Baker, K. Davis, J. Eddington, T. Hessel, P. Smith

Staff present: Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Orchard, Economic Development Consultant Ron Gaudet, Economic Development Coordinator Natasha Fritzley, Director of Planning and Development Scott Tousaw, Manager of Planning Sandra Weber, Senior Manager of Economic Development Mike Pullen

Members Absent: P. Gowing, J. Grace, B. MacLellan, S. Sparling, M. Vanderloo

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, June 8th, 2015 be accepted as amended 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 Smith and Seconded by: Member Davis

THAT:

The minutes of the previous Huron County Economic Development Board meeting on May 11th, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Opening Comments (Chair Lynn):

Chair Lynn thanked Board members for their attendance and County staff in attendance. Chair Lynn attended a meeting on June 4th with representatives from OMAFRA and municipal partner Economic Development Officers. Attendees discussed the collaborative economic development strategic planning process. This process is being treated as a pilot by OMAFRA and they are applying extra resources to ensure its success. Chair Lynn also informed attendees that Board members have engaged in a discussion related to how the rural voice becomes heard at the federal and provincial levels, particularly in relation to the banning of pesticides by the government. Meetings with the Grain Farmers of Ontario and Ontario Agri-Business Association have been planned. The Chair also shared that he has planned upcoming meetings with MPP Lisa Thompson on June 12th and MP Ben Lobb. He is planning to discuss the Board and its current projects.

6. Correspondence:

1. Huron Tourism Association re: delegation request & annual report:
Staff Natasha Fritzley directed to invite Huron Tourism Association to present to the Board and share how they measure their success on an annual and ongoing basis.
2. Huron Manufacturing Association re: delegation request:
Staff Natasha Fritzley directed to invite Huron Manufacturing Association to present and share how they measure their success on an annual and ongoing basis.
3. Skills Gap Working Group re: completed labour plan:
Received for information
4. EDS Staff re: Bluewater property:
MOTION:
Moved by: Member Eddington and Seconded by: Member Davis
THAT:
Staff draft a direct letter indicating that the Bluewater property is a valuable asset to the County and that we would encourage an acceleration of the Infrastructure Ontario due diligence process. Staff directed to ensure that the letter be endorsed by County Council and go to local MP, MPP and Premier with an accompanying press release.
CARRIED

5. EDS Staff re: quarterly report:
Received for information
6. Tyler Hessel, Mayor Bluewater re: Beverage Producers Association:
Member Hessel indicated that Bluewater staff having been working with local grape growers in correspondence with Huron Manufacturing Association and Huron Tourism Association in relation to how we can move forward as a regional grape growing area. Bluewater and Central Huron Council intend to continue to pursue a beverage producers association.

7. Perceived barriers to planning and development:

1. Perceived Barrier to Development Report: Staff Scott Tousaw (Director of Planning & Development) and Sandra Weber (Manager of Planning) presented report and answered Board questions.
 - MOTION:
Moved by: Member Davis and Seconded by: Member Eddington
THAT:
Staff carry out operational activities suggested within Perceived Barriers to Planning and Development staff report that are within budget with the expectation that measurements of success will be included in staff action plans.
CARRIED
2. Huron County Economic Development/Planning Study proposals: Mark Seasons
 - MOTION:
Moved by: Member Hessel and Seconded by: Member Davis
THAT:
Proposal by Mark Seasons and accompanying contract be accepted and endorsed.
CARRIED
 - Staff Scott Tousaw and Brenda Orchard asked to develop a specific list of outcomes related to the aforementioned study.

8. Assessment Methodology Subcommittee Update:

1. Chair Lynn requested that subcommittee meet and apply the proposed assessment methodology to the two requests received by the Board (Blyth Emergency Services Training Centre and Healthkick)

9. Measurements Subcommittee Update:

1. Staff Natasha Fritzley advised that OMAFRA and Staff Ron Gaudet have developed measurement models for the subcommittee's consideration.

10. Strategic Plan:

1. Wheel alignment & timeline: Ron Gaudet
Staff Ron Gaudet presented on rationale behind the wheel and proposed timeline for strategic planning process.
2. Report re: Key sector opportunities (David Campbell):
Received for information
3. Motion re: David Campbell assistance with strategic plan (\$):

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Smith and Seconded by: Member Eddington

THAT:

David Campbell be involved in the strategic planning process at a cost of up to \$12,000.

CARRIED

11. Other business:

1. Staff Update:
Staff Natasha Fritzley updated Board on current staff led initiatives.
2. Financial Summary: HCEDB YTD Report
Report received for information

12. Next Meeting:

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

13. Did Well/Do Better

Board members provided a brief update on what they felt was done well at the meeting and what could be improved upon.

14. Adjournment:

The Huron County Economic Development Board adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Chair J. Lynn