

County of Huron
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Due to Huron County's COVID Response Plan, this meeting took place virtually.

The Economic Development Board met virtually on November 10, 2021. Members of the Board present were: Brad Chandler, Jim Ginn, Liz Ihrig (joined at 5:02 PM), Leanne Kavanagh, John Kiser, Bernie MacLellan, John Marshall, Glen McNeil, Jason Oud, Tim Prior and Bryan Vincent. Members of the Board Absent: none. Staff present: Chief Administrative Officer Meighan Wark, Acting Director of Economic Development Sandra Weber and Clerk Susan Cronin.

1. Chair Marshall called the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting to order at 5:01 PM:

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Chandler

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board agenda for November 10, 2021 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof:

There were no declarations stated.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Moved by: Member Kavanagh and Seconded by: Warden McNeil

THAT:

The minutes of the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting of October 13, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Presentations/Delegations:

5.1. Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus: Economic Development Workforce Strategy

Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC), Economic Development, presented the WOWC Workforce Strategy Findings and Issues Report.

Moved by: Member Prior and Seconded by: Member Ihrig

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the presentation dated November 10, 2021 by Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director, Economic Development Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus: Economic Development Workforce Strategy for information.

CARRIED

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5.2. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Update Vicki Lass, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Advisor Huron & Perth gave a verbal update.

Moved by: Member Vincent and Seconded by: Member Chandler

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the update from Vicki Lass, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Advisor Huron & Perth, dated November 10, 2021, as presented for information.

CARRIED

6. Opening Comments and Updates from the Chair:

Chair Marshall informed members that Vicki Lass has accepted the position as Huron County Director of Economic Development.

7. Board Member Issues:

Member Oud outlined concerns regarding railway freight fees in Huron County.

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Vincent

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board request a report by staff on the increase in railway freight fees in Huron County and strategies to address this issue.

CARRIED

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member MacLellan

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board requests the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus: Economic Development Workforce Strategy be presented to Huron County Council for information.

CARRIED

8. Correspondence: None.

9. New Business and / or Unfinished Business:

9.1. Huron County Tourism Summer/Fall 2021 Update (presented by Rick Sickinger)

Moved by: Member Ihrig and Seconded by: Member Prior

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the report by Rick Sickinger, Acting Tourism Development Officer, dated November 10, 2021, titled Huron County Tourism Summer/Fall 2021 Update, as presented for information.

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9.2. Huron County Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) Project Status Update (presented by Cole Nicholson)

Moved by: Member Kavanagh and Seconded by: Member Vincent

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the report by Cole Nicholson, Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator, dated November 10, 2021, titled Huron County Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Project Status Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9.3. Discrimination Experiences by Immigrants, Visible Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Huron County and Perth Region, an Empirical Study (presented by Kristin Crane and Mark Nonkes)

Moved by: Member Prior and Seconded by: Member Kiser

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the report from Kristin Crane, Immigration Partnership Coordinator, and Mark Nonkes, Immigration Partnership Support Officer, dated November 10, 2021, titled Discrimination Experiences by Immigrants, Visible Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Huron County and Perth Region, an Empirical Study, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9.4. Economic Development Department October 2021 Update (presented by Sandra Weber)

Moved by: Member Kiser and Seconded by: Member Prior

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the report by Reanne Clark, Office Administrator, dated November 10, 2021, titled Economic Development Department October 2021 Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

10. Financial Statements:

10.1. Financial Statements (presented by Lisa Harvey). The financial statements for the month ending September 30, 2021 were reviewed.

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Prior

THAT:

The financial statements for the month ending September 30, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

11. Closed to the Public Session: None.

12. Future Meeting Topics:

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- Members are to send all requested future meeting topics to Chair Marshall

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Huron County Economic Development Board will be held virtually on Wednesday December 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

14. Adjournment:

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Kavanagh

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board meeting adjourn at 7:32 PM.

CARRIED