



Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Location: COOR Central Office 11051 N Cut Rd, Roscommon**  
**8 a.m. February 24, 2022**

Present: Vijay Kumar, Katherine Methner, Neil Belanger, Mike Briggs, Wendy Engle, Theresa Ekdorn, Shawn Petrie, Marc Milburn, Rich Castle  
Brenda Bachelder, Economic Development Director

Present via Zoom: Ed Bergeron, Pam Kincaid, Jim Raschke

Absent: Al Cambridge, Bob Schneider

Guests: Mark Berdan

Katherine called meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

There were no Agenda Changes

Introduction of Guests - Mark Berdan, Executive Director of Michigan Works! was introduced.

Motion to approve the January 27, 2022 minutes by Shawn, second by Mike. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Brenda. \$160,000 from ARPA funds has been deposited. Entered Treasurer's report as given.

Brenda See attached Executive Director's report given by Brenda. Working on micro-loan.

#### Old Business

American Rescue Plan Programs – Sm Business Grant committee has met a couple of times. Putting together grant application. Limit of \$25,000 for grant with 10% match. Executive Committee is out to townships for Streetscape program, FIT program, and Dreams for Sale program. There has been a lot of interest from community members from the article in the paper.

May 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting Location – Marc will make arrangements for the airport to host.

EDC Status – Brenda Called Troy Daniels (attorney) and spoke with secretary. Once FOIA has been submitted, you usually get an extension for that request. So still waiting to see what is in the archives at the Secretary of State. We may have to start by scratch.

Covid 19 Microloan Update – Brenda working on collecting the delinquent loans.

Rich Castle has been appointed to the EDC by the County Commissioners at their last meeting.

#### New Business

Business Program – Brenda Would like to put together a series of training. Mercantile bank has given a list of training they can do. EDC would like to use the \$3,000 we received from Chemical bank for fiscal



training. Let Brenda know if you would like to get together to put some training together. Should be for businesses.

Grow MI Business website – Brenda spoke on the NEMCOG website. Has some great resources but is out of date. If someone would like to go through the website and offer insight on what’s missing, what needs to be there. Mike will look at it [growmibusiness.org](http://growmibusiness.org)

Afflicted Business Relief Grant Program – Brenda Fact sheet sent out to EDC members. Brenda asked us to send it out to our networks. Let people know they have the entire month to apply. There will be a couple more webinars before hand.

Other grants coming out – RAP Grant by the State to redevelop old buildings. Katherine has more information on that. Community Development Block grant for outdoor activities like parks, farmers markets etc. Brenda will send information sheet to the townships.

Board Member Comments –

- might be nice to bring in a business that has been impacted by the EDC a few times a year for a short talk.
- Put Your Town on the Map information from Consumers Energy sent to communities. We’ve had some local winners recently including the town of Fairview.
- BRA will be sending a letter to representatives concerning the open meetings act encouraging the ability for people to attend meetings via zoom. **Mike motion to draft a letter similar to the BRAs and forward to appropriate persons. Seconded by Vijay. Motion carried.**
- Tourism Bureau’s Catch Us If You Can drawing will be held April 10.
- Discussing making sure all members get sworn in to the EDC if they haven’t yet. Brenda will see if Michelle (County Clerk) can come in to swear in anyone that hasn’t been.

Guest Comments – Mark Berdan - Refreshing to see that we (Roscommon County) are ahead of other areas on getting ARPA funds out. Wanted to make sure partnership of Michigan Works and EDC are working out. Information on Small Business Development Center (SBDC) service to the local community. A nationwide program under SBA Small Business Administration. Can help with business plans and growth plans.

Agenda items for the next meeting (DIS) – All

Adjourned 9:02 a.m.

**Next meeting March 26, 2022**