



**Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

***Location: Blodgett Memorial Airport
5218 E Houghton Lake Drive, Houghton Lake***

8 a.m. August 25, 2022

Attending: Neil Belanger, Jim Raschke, Rich Castle, Vijay Kumar, Al Cambridge, Theresa Ekdorn, Michael Briggs, Shawn Petrie, Economic Development Director Brenda Bachelder, Marc Milburn, Ed Bergeron, Wendy Engle, Katherine Methner

Guests: Airport Manager Eric Jaroch, Assistant Airport Manager Keith Newell

Absent: Pamela Kincaid, Robert (Bob) Schneider

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

Pledge of Allegiance said by all

There were no Agenda Changes

Introduction of Guests

Minutes - Motion by Rich, second Ed to approve June 23, 2022 & July 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Financials - Discussion on financial reports. Al moved to review and file the report. Jim second. Reports filed.

See attached for Executive Director's report.

Airport Update – Eric Jaroch gave an update on activities happening at the airport. Seasonal airport, busy in the summer. Rehab of apron happening this fall.

They get Grant \$ from FFA. 5-year plan on improvements. How can airport help EDC and how can EDC help the airport? Tourism. \$4.1 million in revenue to the area. How can they build more hangers to be able to handle more tourists?

Business aviation. How can airport be beneficial to local businesses? Package distribution

Advanced air mobility – drone package delivery, autonomous air taxis etc

Short term – need more hanger space. Looking for grants.

Old Business

A. ARPA Programs Update

Small Business & Tourism Grant –Brenda sent press release on awardees at that point.

\$195,082 has been awarded to date. Others are in the work.

First Impressions Assessment Committee members met with MSU Extension. Date for kickoff in early March. Cost is undetermined at this point. MSU wants to know how much we need to



retain for other expenses. **Theresa motion to retain \$2,000 from the \$25,000 allocated in the grant. Second by Ed. Motion carried.**

Streetscapes Project –Working to get the RFP onto the website along with a Q & A that will need to be updated. Neil sent over a resource list. It's ready to go, just needs to get on the website.

Dreams for Sale Event – Committee members met. April 22, 2023 date set. Working on getting a list of empty properties.

- B. **Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Policy** – Most forms have been signed, just need a few which were presented for signature at the meeting.

New Business

- A. **Small Business & Tourism Awards Approval** – Recommendation of the subcommittee to fund Shays Place and TIS for projects. **Motion to accept the recommendations by Al, Rich seconded. Motion carried.**
- B. **Chamber of Commerce Collaborative Mini Grant Request** – **Motion to approve the Mini Grant request by Theresa, Shawn second. Motion carried.**
- C. **Au Sable Birding Trail** –2017 started talking about establishing the birding trail. Initial grant paid for maps and website. Looking for funding for 10,000 maps to be reprinted, with Houghton Lake Area Tourism Bureau and Grayling Visitor Bureau to also contribute to the cost. **Moved by Jim to fund up to \$1350 for a third of the cost of maps. Shawn seconded. This would come from the EDC marketing budget. Motion carried.**

Board Member Comments – Ed – MSU lead study of Glacial Lake Roscommon. Conference in Roscommon area next May to share their studies. Birding trail – would be nice to have a national birding conference.

Public Comments – All

Agenda items for the next meeting – All
Meeting adjourned 9:31 a.m.

Next meeting- September 22, 2022