

Attendance: Chris Shafer, Mary Belland, Terry Lukas, Dick Popp, Ron Skallerud, Walley Leja, Cindy Gretzinger,  
Guests : Mike Brown (USDA, Forest Service), Jim Rosenberg (WEDC), Jim Miller  
(Representative Tiffany's Office Staff)

1. Call Meeting to Order 3:02PM
2. Approval of Agenda
  - Amend agenda to move to closed session to #10
  - a. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Wally Laje                      all in favor - yes
3. Approval of 7/24/2023 Meeting Minutes
  - a. 1st - Cindy Gretzinger                      2nd - Wally Leja                      all in favor - yes
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Chris Shafer                      all in favor - yes
5. Directors Report
  - a. Associate Director - Business Plan Workshop hosted by Florence and Forest county. 13 in attendance, held in Armstrong Creek, looking forward to planning more workshops for FCEDP
  - b. Loan Status
    - i. Payments are going well, need check for small claim filed \$96.50 for check amount to clerk of courts to file.
    - ii. Another microloan approached
    - iii. Calls are coming in more now with interest in what can be provided through FCEDP
    - iv. 8 million left in the CWED fund, opportunities for future loans, gap funding through this organization.
  - c. Broadband update
    - i. No updates on announcement for Signature Project, just waiting on BEAD funding or signature project. Bertrum Communications is an option for future Broadband projects, Spectrum has no interest in working with Forest County at this time.
  - d. Bills Update
    - i. None
  - e. RPN Update
    - i. Tiffany's office to help with grant funding. Grant writing and overview. What grant fits the scope of the particular project. Use this office as another contact point for our communities.
    - ii. Meeting in Rhinelander went great. There were many people from forest county at the meeting and there were many great opportunities for networking and meeting people who are able to be involved in Forest County projects, infrastructure, roads and such.
6. Partners Report

**Blackwell Job Corp Conservation Center-Blackwell, WI**

- a. Jim - Board of Commissioners of public lands- No bonds
  - i. Land Grant universities (low interest loans)
  - ii. Send jim an email for contact - state ran - USDA rural development
  - iii. CDI Grant - 1 to 1 match for distressed areas, Mary Beck (project going-saloon on main) Fix it up with a grant to build a tax base, grants match out at a quarter million.
7. Any other business
  - a. Tony Smith's - Concrete running out of gravel base, land exchange or purchase , a letter was sent the beginning of August to our senators and representatives. Exchange takes time but is more manageable
    - i. Cannot sell federal land needs to come from higher up.
  - b. Jim - Tiffany's Office (traffic safety) Rendezvous- Terry, cut road right away trees down for safety of vehicles leaving and entering the new establishment.
8. Partners Report
  - a. Forest County Fair - needs to be moved to Wabeno
    - i. Wabeno came to the last meeting and the conversation has been better. Somewhat open to it in the future.
  - b. Thank you to the Blackwell Job Corp Conservation Center for hosting this month's FCEDP meeting, for the tour and the amazing display of food prepared by the kitchen. We hope that we are able to bring more people out here and show them this amazing campus, and bring light to this amazing opportunity in Forest County.
9. Next Meeting
  - a. Tuesday, September 26th, 2023. At 3:00 PM at the Forest County Courthouse
10. Closed Session: The Committee may consider a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to WIS. stat 19.85(1)(e) "deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session."
  - a. Discussion on Revolving Loan Fund
    - 1st - Clndy Gretzinger      2nd - Ron Skallerud    all in favor
    - Chris Shafer - I, Terry Lukas - I, Dick Popp - I, Wally Laje - I,
11. Resume Open Session
  - a. Motion to add clause to the microloan which will include
    - i. 12 month wait period after final payment of loan
    - ii. Add progress reports after the first 6 months
    - iii. Add security to the loan if delinquent payments were made with a higher interest rate.
    - 1st - Ron Skallerud      2nd - Terry Lukas    all in favor - yes
  - b. Motion to conditionally approve a \$50,000 loan for a Forest County Business, if all conditions and documents are met.
    - 1st - Terry Lukas      2nd - Ron Skallerud    all in favor - yes



**Forest County Economic Development Partnership**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

**Blackwell Job Corp Conservation Center-Blackwell, WI**

12. Adjourn 5:01 PM

1st - Wally Laje

2nd - Chris Shafer

all in favor - yes