

Attendance - Chris Shafer, Mary Belland, Ron Skallerud, Terry Lukas, Kathy McLaughlin, Kathy McLaughlin, Cindy Gretxinger, Dick Popp, Phone - Nathan Sandwick, Julie Lasa

1. Call Meeting to Order 3:00PM
2. Approval of Agenda
  - a. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Chris Shafer                      All in Favor - yes
3. Approval of 10/24/2023 Meeting Minutes
  - a. 1st - Chris Shafer                      2nd - Ron Skallerude                      All in Favor - yes
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Chris Shafer                      All in Favor - yes
5. Director's report
  - a. Loan Status
    - i. Payments are coming in
    - ii. New micro - talked about prior will work
    - iii. New Marco - paid off early -new entity to purchase
  - b. CWED and RPN update
    - i. Strategic meeting (month ago)actually working for marketing
    - ii. Gap funding
  - c. Meeting times
    - i. Need to check with Nora. human service problem.
    - ii. Gap Funding
  - d. Broadband Committee Meetings
    - i. No meeting until after 1st of year - yes (Terry)
    - ii. Terry needs Chris to check on something (follow up on 2 Lake Metonga residence connections
  - e. Merger Update - Visit Forest County (Chamber/Tourism)
    - i. Tremendous success, membership and visitors guide totals are up again this year.
    - ii. Focus on driving tourism and business to Forest county
    - iii. More marketing & to use , continue our positive growth.
6. Partner Reports
  - a. RPN Update
    - i. Nathan Sandwick (Share Opportunity)
      1. Technical assistance and capacity building
        - a. Dot & Hud (capacity building (plan and design for projects
          - i. Nov 15th letter of interest is due
      2. Greenlight grant initiative (schools)
        - a. Safe schools, school safety grants (2024 grants)
      3. Broadband

- a. Finding TA - verify the need - rescoping
- ii. Julie Lasa (state director - year 2)
  - 1. Rural development 70+ programs (businesses and co-ops
  - 2. Rural utility service - electrical co-ops, investor owned
  - 3. Broadband - Signature Project
    - a.
    - b. Andy Berk - small pool in Rush (income levels and poverty levels
    - c. RPN - extra points on applications
    - d. TA to help write then will score higher on points with TA
    - e. Andre Bennings (cara cook-NTIA)
      - i. Hear it from them - work plan - examples of success stories
      - ii. stakeholder meeting - draft work plan - TA opportunities
      - iii. Rural Lisk - TA Funding for grant writing, grant/loan
  - 4. Dome
    - a. Low interest loans with mix of grant funding
    - b. Community facilities
    - c. CDI
    - d. Raise DOT
- b. Kathy McLaughlin (Blackwell Job Corps and Civilian Center)
  - i. 84 Students currently enrolled
  - ii. Job Placement with unions is on the rise
  - iii. Working more in the local communities for volunteer opportunities and building opportunities
    - 1. New Zoo, Laona Cemetery, Cardinal Park, Rifle Range
  - iv. Terry
    - 1. Thank you for hosting the FCEDP meeting, Blackwell Job Corps is a gem in our northwoods, we would like to have more meetings out there if possible.
- 7. 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. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Dick Popp                      all in favor - yes
    - Discussion on Loan Funds
- 8. Reconvene to open session to take action, if appropriate, on matters discussed in closed session
  - a. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Chris Shafer                      All in Favor - yes



**Forest County Economic Development Partnership  
Board Meeting Agenda  
October 24th, 2023  
3:00 PM  
Forest County Board Room**

- b. Motion to approve a microloan for KH not to exceed \$6000 as long as there is collateral to support.
    - i. 1st - Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Chris Shafer      All in Favor - yes
- 9. Any other business
  - a. none
- 10. Next meeting
  - a. TBA
- 11. Adjourn 4:46PM
  - a. 1st Ron Skallerud                      2nd - Chris Shafer                      All in favor - yes