

Sweetgrass Development 2nd Quarter Meeting, Monday, June 19, 2017, Ringside Ribs, Shelby, MT

Call to Order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairman Tony Sitzmann.

Attending: Tony Sitzmann, Lila Evans, Dale Seifert, Jim Hodgskiss, Brad Livingston, Jim Larson, Cyndi Johnson, Bill McCauley, Deb Brandon, Holly Hovland, Mike Henning, Lorette Carter, Gerald Wagner

Staff: Sarah Converse, Kelly Solberg

Guests: Helen McCauley

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sitzmann at 4:35.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Cyndi Johnson and seconded by Dale Seifert to approve the agenda as distributed, motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Deb Brandon and seconded by Dale Seifert to approve the annual meeting minutes from March 27, 2017, motion passed.

Financials

Cyndi reported on the March, April, and May financials. Sarah updated on the status of RLF funds, all are paying with one in litigation. Approximately \$150,000 in the RLF account as of this meeting. The budget is on track for the year. It was moved by Cyndi Johnson and seconded by Lila Evans to approve the financials for March - May, motion passed.

Administrative Report

Legislative – Sarah gave an update on the legislative session and the upcoming elimination of state programs due to funding deferral in 2019. A discussion ensued regarding the President’s budget and proposed cuts.

MACo - Sarah attended the district meeting and will be attending the conference in September.

MIC – the MIC will continue with their work in preparation for the 2019 session

MEDA – Sarah will be attending the MEDA board meeting and CRDC meeting that will be held this summer.

MEDA is focusing on the 2019 program reauthorization.

Grant updates –

EDA - SDC is awaiting the CEDS approval from EDA.

CRDC – nothing to report.

BSTF – The Shelby Data Center grant will be closed out, receiving updates on the Shelby job creation grant.

The BTBC Elder Care grant should be closed out in the next quarter and submission for the Heart Butte C-store and gas station will be submitted after the feasibility study is concluded. Working through the process for the planning grants for Columbia Grain and Montana Specialty Mills.

CDBG-ED – Glacier County. We are working on the start up documents and moving forward with the project.

EPA Brownfields: All monies have been obligated and projects are moving forward.

Hiring/Contracting:

Deb Brandon stated that NETA needs to be informed in writing their services are no longer needed because it is still on City of Shelby’s budget for 2018. Sarah indicated that NETA’s workload has increased and based upon conversations with their assistant, they will not be able to assist with our programs. With the hiring of Kelly Solberg as Economic Development Assistant, these duties can be transferred to her.

Schedule Updates:

Kelly will be attending NADO Conference in Denver, June 27-30. Sarah plans to be out last week of July and first week of August.

Business Items:

Tony Sitzmann, President

NETA contract discussion - Sarah will contact Larry Bonderud to work through the details regarding the NETA contract.

Application approval for:

EPA Brownfields/RLF. Motion was made by Cyndi Johnson for approval and seconded by Lorette Carter, motion passed.

BTBC C-Store Heart Butte. There was discussion on moving ahead with assistance on this project. Tony Sitzmann made a motion to proceed and Bill McCauley seconded, motion passed.

Assistance with Tourism Grants

Lorette Carter commented Sweetgrass Development should be applying for tourism grants regionally. Motion was made by Cyndi Johnson and seconded by Lorette Carter to pursue tourism grants, motion passed. BTBC membership and By-Law Review. Discussion ensued regarding Blackfeet Tribal Business Council membership and discussion on by-laws.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m. by Chairman Sitzmann.