

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Minutes of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Location: Lamoille County Planning Commission

- Co-Chair Tasha Wallis called the meeting to order at 1:15
- Dave Bergh move to accept the minutes of the March 16<sup>th</sup> NVEDD Board meeting; Jan M. seconded it, motion passed
- Guest for today's meeting was Dave Rubin from the Vermont State Colleges Chancellor's Office. Dave spoke to the Board about the possibility of the State Colleges applying for the EDA i6 grant which is focused on regional innovation strategies.
  - Grant requires 1 to 1 match
  - National Competition
  - Tech Heavy
  - Ultimately chose not to apply this year as application was due in two weeks and the program had not yet been entirely flushed out.
- At the completion of Dave's discussion Mike Welch asked what the NVEDD Board's role is in supporting EDA applications brought before us?
  - Catherine suggested the Board should lay out a process and present it to the full Board. If applications come in between Board meetings then the Executive Committee could handle the review.
  - We could just do a "statement of compliance" with the approved CEDS or a stamp of approval over actual support for an application
  - Discussion followed that maybe we look at models such as the REEP Zone or Northeast Collaborative
  - Mike W. made the motion to have the Executive Committee create a policy for EDA grant application review and possibly NBRC applications; the motion was seconded by Sarah W. The motion passed unanimously.
- Catherine reviewed the financials from the EDA Administrative grant and notified the Board that we returned \$10,871 back to EDA. Catherine also updated the Board on the status of the CEDS. A motion to accept the financials was made by John Mandeville and seconded it by Jan M, the motion passed.
- Catherine gave the Board an overview of the Partnership Planning Grant from EDA. The grant is for a three year period and is structured very similar to the initial EDA Administrative Grant that we received.
  - It is used to implement our strategies within the CEDS

- 1 to 1 match
  - Same administrative structure
  - \$70,000 a year
- The Board agreed to complete an MOU which would state that even if EDA discontinued funding to NVEDD we all agree to continue the organization with the coalition of the regional organizations currently at the table.
- Chris Saunders from Senator Leahy's office gave an overview of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC).
  - A stronger review process has been put in place
  - There is a NBRC retreat happening as he spoke.
  - Suggestion to have Jared Duval from the Agency of Commerce to discuss the level of NVEDD involvement with NBRC
- David Bergh has taken a new job out of state and will be leaving the NVEDD Board
- Concern was expressed about the poor attendance of some of the NVEDD Board members and John M and Tasha W are to draft a letter to those who have made one or no meetings to see if they would like to continue on the Board.
- Ellen Kahler will be attending the next meeting to discuss the Forest Products Value Chain Investment Strategy
- Motion to adjourn at 2:55 by John Morley seconded Jan M