

Northern Vermont Economic Development District
October 5, 2021
Minutes

- Meeting was called to order at 1:03 by Pat
- Pat initiated introductions as we had some new folks on the call.
- Kathy made the motion to accept the minutes seconded by Ann the motion passed unanimously
- Seth gave an overview of the EDA COVID Recovery Plan. Seth presented the plan and touched on the plan's metrics. The plan will be submitted to EDA as part of our grant requirements, once submitted we will need to work towards completing the activities within the plan. Floyd N. suggested a couple of changes to the plan, both were very minor. Kathy L made the motion to accept the plan to include Floyd's changes and Floyd made the second on the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Natalie Elvidge of ACCD gave an overview of the NBRC grant process. The State received 11 Letters of Interest, final decisions will be made in January.
- There was no EDA update.
- Fauna Hurley gave the federal legislative updates and focused on the federal budget items/status. Dave S. asked about the Build Back Better budget. Salvador with LCPC gave an overview of the Build Back Better funding. The purpose is to create regional clusters that have a like minded need. The applicants need to live in the same region and focused on workforce, entrepreneurs, planning and infrastructure. Funding can go up as high as \$100M. The program consists of two phases. No definitive region structure, the clusters can extend past State boundaries. Encouraged rural areas to apply and to bring more partners into the cluster.

Seth shared some thoughts as to some potential projects for the NVEDD area. Matt Dunne is working on a software cluster, NCIC is looking at a forestry initiative and the Rutland area was working on a dairy project. Is this anything that we want to pursue? The consensus was yes and Tasha and her team will investigate possibilities and will reach back out to us. The deadline for submittal is October 19th

Chris Saunders cautioned the group about EDA, they would not and do not support housing initiatives. Senator Leahy will be endorsing NBRC funding in the upcoming budget. Chris asked for people to be patient moving forward re: the budget.

- The Board discussion turned to Board vacancies and the need for each region to fill two seats each. Ann will try to have conversations re: NVU candidates and share names with the Board. Floyd Nease is retiring in December which will open up another site.
- COVID general discussions re: booster vaccines
- Old Business/New
 - Business Andy has some workshops coming up.
 - Dave S. will reach out to Catherine Dimitruk re: the status of the CEDS and its renewal
 - Paul Monette inquired about the committee that was to review the NVEDD Bylaws as there has not been a meeting to review them.

- Adjourn at 2:02 PM