

Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board

Board of Directors

February 23, 2021- 7:30 a.m. – ZOOM Meeting

Board Members in Attendance

Scott Cowley
Dema Jo Gilbert
Sharon Fain
Matt Pope
Mike Williams
Kim Withers

Others in Attendance

Brittany Ashby, Align
Kristie Wilson, Align
Amber Ash - DDA
Betsey Hale - LEADS
Gunnar Malm – Laramie County
Tom Mason - MPO
Lori Schoene
Wendy Volk, CRAFT
Mark Rinne, City of Cheyenne

Board Members Not in Attendance

Dr. JJ Chen

The regular meeting of the Cheyenne Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board was convened at 7:30 am, via Zoom, with Kim Withers, Chair, presiding. Roll call was conducted.

Action Items

The Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting agenda for February 23, 2021, was presented for adoption.

A Pope/Fain motion was made and seconded to adopt the February 23, 2021, meeting agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board February 23, 2021, consent agenda was presented for adoption.

A Williams/Gilbert motion was made and seconded to adopt the February 23, 2021, consent agenda to include the February 23, 2021, meeting minutes and the February vouchers totaling \$4,007.20. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Update on Resource Link off the City/County's Website

Brittany reported that both city and county updated. Discussing updating sites to have forms and resource for the community.

Update on Revolving Loan Fund

Kim reported on the revolving loan strategy committee meeting with James Klessens with Forward Cody and Kirk Keyser with the EDA who gave information on plans and strategies. The recommended action of the committee was to open this up for Board discussion. A synopsis was provided for the Joint Powers Board. Discussion by Board spoke of concerns with policies and parameters as well as taking measures to not confuse the public with this additional fund, and to enhance the GAP funding we already have. Additionally, the Board does not want to compete with local lenders and would want to get the word out that this fund is available to the community. Brittany added consideration of three steps: 1) current loan parameters; 2) LEADS dollars; and 3) USDA dollars.

Considering this discussion, Kim indicated that the Board's next step are to clarify county's loan funds and how it works administratively. It is important to set up policies for existing loan funds and see how future funding from LEADS will need to be incorporated. Kim, Gay, and Brittany can work on this program in conjunction with the Sub-Committee.

New Business

No new business.

Partner Updates

City of Cheyenne

Dr. Rinne reported on the City Council meeting held on 2/22/21. The highlights included side yard setbacks and material ordinance changes, defining what family units are for neighborhoods as 4 people who are not related residing at the same address, land sale at the southwest corner of Holliday Park, and fire fighter contract negotiations that will begin this week.

CRAFT

Wendy Volk thoroughly reported on revenue numbers adding that the COVID-related suspended services were restarted in November 2020. She also reported a runway revamp that will close the airport from April 15 through July 1, 2021. Wendy reported that service will continue in time for Frontier Days. Additional flights will be added in February 2022. CRAFT will need contributions and asks Board to consider future funding for budget purposes.

Laramie County, Wyoming

Gunnar Malm reported \$1.9 million distributed of CARES funds for businesses. Sales tax revenues February receipts are just over \$2 million. They have started the 6th penny process. Another meeting will be held in March as the ballot needs to be finalized by July for a November 3rd Election. Legislature will start today.

LEADS Report

Betsey Hale reported on the 12 new prospects and the 27 actively working prospects and the various types of businesses these prospects will bring to the community.

Downtown Development Authority Report

Amber Ash reported on graffiti removal, hiring a person to replace Holly who will start March 15th and that they will be hiring another part-time position. Amber also reported that 68 new jobs thru business that have opened since the start of the fiscal year and that their budget is due to the city March 5th.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 am.

The next regular Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.