

Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board
Board of Directors - Minutes – May 23, 2023- 7:30 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting – Zoom & Cheyenne Regional Airport Board Room
4020 Airport Pkwy W Cheyenne, WY 82001

Board Members in Attendance

Shari Bremer – In Person
Kevin Marquardt – Zoom
Josh Morris – In Person
Mike Williams – In person

Gay Woodhouse, WRA&B Counsel – In Person
Charles Bloom, City of Cheyenne - Zoom
Chris Brennan, WRA&B Counsel – In Person
Tim Bradshaw, Chey Reg Airport – In Person
Domenic Bravo, Visit Cheyenne – In Person
Nick Colsch, LCCC – Zoom
Thom Gabrukiewicz, City of Cheyenne DDA – In Person
Betsey Hale – LEADS - Zoom
Linda Heath, Laramie County - Zoom
Dr. Mark Rinne, City of Cheyenne – In Person
Renee Smith, City of Cheyenne – In Person
Dale Steenbergen, Chey Chamber – In Person
Paul Johnson - Zoom

Board Members/Staff Not In Attendance

Dr. JJ Chen
Sharon Fain
Trey Rinne

Others in Attendance

Brittany Ashby, Align – In Person
Kristie Wilson, Align – In Person
Sarah Glandt, Align - Zoom

The regular meeting of the Cheyenne Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board assembled with all Board members present at 7:30 a.m., in person, and via Zoom, with Sharon Fain, board vice chair presiding in the absence of Mike Williams, board chair.

Action Items

The Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting agenda for May 23, 2023, was presented for adoption.

A Morris/Bremer motion was made and seconded to adopt the May 23, 2023, meeting agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board May 23, 2023, consent agenda was presented for adoption.

A Morris/Bremer motion was made and seconded to adopt the May 23, 2023, consent agenda; April 25, 2023, meeting minutes; April 30, 2023, financials; and the May 2023 vouchers totaling \$3,363.55. The motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Topics

Dale Steenbergen – Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce – presented the topic of housing in Cheyenne and stated that it is not significantly different from the rest of the country. Shortage of housing for the workforce, especially when the cost of living is particularly high is the main problem. He gave a brief synopsis of Cheyenne’s housing situation and reported that it is not as bad as it seems. With that said there is an over-abundance of income-assisted housing in Cheyenne. Mike suggested that we have Dale come back after September to report after the study is complete to see how the JPB can help.

Renee Smith from the City of Cheyenne CDBG & HUD Grants Manager reported on leveraging funds available to the City with the HUD dollars that are available. Sixty-five percent of these funds can go to economic development. They currently fund COMEA, Safehouse, and Habitat for Humanity. Renee spoke about the

Section 108 Loan Fund which allows leveraging of the city's CDBG money guaranteed by HUD. She talked about Cheyenne being one of five cities selected for the Housing Solutions Lab, an 8-month program, and hopes to pool all the data for a solution. Renee reports that they would like to complement what the Chamber of Commerce is doing. If you want any information, Renee will send it to you.

New Business

DDA Update & Request for Funding 2023/24

Charles Bloom and Thom Gabrukiewicz reported on the 2022-23 JPB Grant accomplishments and presented a funding request for 2023/24 in the amount of \$20,000. He commented that this is not specifically tied to one specific element. Mike asked Charles if we could have a discussion on the different programs going on so that we are sure we keep focused on the JPB. The Board will consider and vote at the June 2023 meeting.

Contract Renewals

Align FY2023/24 and WRAB FY 23/24 Contract Renewals

A Morris/Bremer motion was made and seconded to renew these contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

Lenhart-Mason FY 22/23 CPA Review

A Morris/Marquardt motion was made and seconded to retain Lenhart-Mason's services for the CPA review. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

WCBEA FY 23/24 Funding Request Vote

Nick Colsch fielded questions from the Board on the 2023/24 funding request. Kevin Marquardt brought up a question about access to this data. Josh Morris thinks this tool is great, but its web-search capability could be improved. Betsey Hale from LEADS commented on supporting the Board funding this WCBEA data tool from her economic development perspective.

A Morris/Marquardt motion was made and seconded to approve the funding request for FY 2023/24 in the amount of \$73,000 billed quarterly at \$18,250. The motion passed unanimously.

Impact Wyoming Grand Refund

Impact Wyoming has refunded the \$20,000 awarded to them by the JPB as their program will not begin until the fall of 2023 which is outside the contracted grant fiscal period.

Grant/RLF Committee Update

Brittany clarified what the committee has come up with considering the guidelines for the JPB RLF/Grant program. The Marketing RFP is another piece of the February 2023 strategic planning session. Mike Williams suggested the Board review these documents and provide Brittany with feedback so that action may be taken at the June 2023 board meeting.

Other Business

None

Partner Updates

City of Cheyenne

Councilman Dr. Rinne gave an update from the City level.

Laramie County

Commissioner Linda Heath gave a report for the County.

DDA

Thom Gabrukiewicz provided an update on projects happening in the downtown area. Mike requested a presentation on the planning document when that is finished.

LEADS

Betsey Hale provided an update on the most recent LEADS projects.

Visit Cheyenne

Domenic Bravo had to leave before giving the update.

Airport

Tim Bradshaw highlighted the airport's projects including restoring the original terminal building. Air service will return in September 2023, flights may be booked now.

Align

Brittany reported on the class she took regarding leveraging all the dollars available for better service for the community. She specifically mentioned the community in Great Falls, Montana. Please watch for a special meeting for this presentation. We will also invite all the partners.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m. The next regular Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting will be held on Zoom and in person at the Cheyenne Regional Airport Boardroom on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. which will be the budget hearing meeting for FY 23/24.