

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2022

I. Chairman Oberleiter called the Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation held at the Monroe Bank & Trust Headquarters at 10 Washington Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161 on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 to order at 9:31 a.m.

II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Kim Comerzan, Stacey Goans, David Swartout, Barry Buschmann (arrived at 9:33), Tim Janssen, Scot Laskey, Dan Minton, Tracy Oberleiter and Randy Richardville (left at 10:34) and Matt Vanisacker

ABSENT: Tom Allen and Mike Baker (both excused)

A quorum being present, the Committee proceeded to conduct business.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Dan Minton, supported by Kim Comerzan to approve the March 8, 2022 agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (12/14/2021 – Organizational Meeting)

Motion by David Swartout, supported by Stacey Goans to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 Organizational Meeting, as presented, and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

V. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. COVID 19 Monroe County Update-Kim Comerzan

- Positivity rate is currently 5%
- Low on vaccine distribution about 50%
- Hospitalizations down
- 4th shot available for immunocompromised people—3 dose series + 1 booster
- With migrants from Ukraine she is more concerned with tuberculosis than Covid spread

2. Michigan Works update-Stacy Goans

- Offices are appointment only until April
- Apprenticeship programs can be found in all industries and are a good way to get job experience

- MiLEAP—Shorter term training program—focused in areas of poverty
- Infinity 1 grant for manufacturing jobs
- 4.3% unemployment rate in Monroe County
- Doordash, Instacart & GrubHub--Huge increase in those industries and does affect the unemployment statistics
- Clean Slate—Details on SEMCA website
- Testing the County GIS mapping to put job opportunities in the county on the map
- Going PRO Talent Fund—Grant/state money for employers to assist in training, developing and retaining current & newly hired employees

Discussion turned to cannabis stores, hiring, etc.

3. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker was absent so no report was given
4. Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team update-Barry Buschmann
 - Updating Streamlining Booklet-- Jeff McBee and Matt Vanisacker met to review the guide. They will be providing suggested updates to the Prepare for Investment Pillar Team this week for their review. Will be encouraging those at the Municipal Conference to update their pages.
 - Looking at development sites in the County
5. Planning & Zoning Seminar on Solar-3-23-22 at MCCC-Barry Buschmann
 - 6 - 7:30 P.M. at the Monroe County Community College Room (L-140) or via Zoom. Representatives from DTE and Consumers Energy along with a representative from MSU Extension/U of M's team who crafted the "Planning & Zoning for Solar Energy Systems: A Guide for Michigan Local Governments". 32 people registered for in-person attendance and 18 for virtual attendance. The Guide has assisted numerous municipalities in crafting sound policy around Solar. The event was created as an educational tool for the county agriculture sector and municipal planning and zoning departments.

Discussion turned to wind energy.

6. Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Launch 734 Pillar Team update-Matt Vanisacker
 - Chamber of Commerce is moving into the Building on April 1st.
 - The Pillar Team has contracted with a company called

"NanoKore" to provide entrepreneur in residence services under the program. They will be hosting a number of meet ups, training sessions and pitch events as we move into the near future. Entrepreneurs can access Launch 734 services by visiting the website www.Launch734.com, calling 734-242-6877 or emailing EIR@launch734.com.

- SourceLink continues to build out the CRM Tool and Resource Navigation tool on the Website. Team is planning to officially launch the program in the first week of May with Press and events.

7. Monroe County Link Project update-Matt Vanisacker

- Working on 3 new state approved CTE Courses that can be utilized by all schools throughout the County. The group is also working to identify which credentials are important to area employers so students can potentially earn them prior to graduation.
- Store is open until March 15th. Featuring the new State of Michigan alternate logo. To shop the store visit www.michcornerstone.com. Additionally, the tourism bureau is developing a whole new website that will include the county events calendar and Michigan's Cornerstone branding.

8. BDC 40th Annual Investors Meeting on 3-9-22-Matt Vanisacker

- All investors or main contacts of investors should have received the main information regarding our upcoming investors meeting. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Monroe County Business Development Corporation. We will be honoring the life and legacy of one of our founding board members, Richard Sieb. UA Local 671 will be hosting us and it should be a lovely event.

9. Farming update-Tim Janssen—

- Increasingly challenging finding laborers
- H2A workers come from several different countries
- Chemical packages are hard to find
- Fertilizer costs are increasing significantly
- Ag prices are all over the place
- Fuel prices are increasing significantly
- Hard to find appraiser in Monroe County
- Requirements for CDL licenses have changed and the cost of the license is high

10. ProMedica Matching Funds @ BDC update-Matt Vanisacker

- Changing the language on the use of funds to expand into other business sectors. Continue to work with companies interested and those who have received the funding.

11. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-Dave Swartout & Randy Richardville

- Jim Jacobs appointed as new Road Commissioner
- MCOP helps a lot of people in Monroe County—2

upcoming events: Women's Wellness Day (March 26) and 2nd Boxing Event (April 1)

- Randy Richardville commented that the Attorney General will be in town on March 18th at MCCC and Sheriff Goodnough will also be making a presentation

12. Labor update-Dan Minton

- Local Building trades are staying busy and doing well year over year
- DTE/Consumers keep them busy—200 laborers out there provide rental income to houses, hotels, food service and laundromats. About 1/2 are from out of state.
- New CDL license requirements are a problem
- New folks coming into the industry. Work ethic has changed.

13. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey—No report given

VI. COMMUNICATIONS- None

VII. INFORMATION – None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

IX. NEW BUSINESS—None

X. CITIZENS TIME – None

XI. NEXT MEETING – June 14, 2022

XII. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by Matt Vanisacker, supported by Dan Minton. Voice vote taken. Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 11:29 a.m. with no further business.