



BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA • EDC CREATING MONTANA BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Big Sky EDA/EDC Joint Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – 7:30 A.M. – Rosebud Room – Granite Tower

BIG SKY ED Mission Statement: - Focused on sustaining and growing our region's vibrant economy and outstanding quality of life, Big Sky Economic Development provides leadership and resources for business creation, expansion, retention, new business recruitment and community development.

Committee Members Present: EDA – Sheri Nicholson, Jennifer Smith, Cory Moore, Robin Rude, Kevin Gustainis
EDC – Eric Simonsen, David Trost

Staff and others Present: Steve Arveschoug, Jim Tevlin, Austin Trunkle, Dianne Lehm, Melanie Schwarz, Karen Baumgart, Deanna Langman, Allison Corbyn, Evelyn Pyburn, Mary Lou McMillan (recording secretary)

David Trost, EDC Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:31 A.M. - Sheri Nicholson, EDA Chair, deferred the meeting to David Trost, EDC Chair.

Public Comments: None

Changes to the Agenda: None

- **Approval of EDA/EDC Executive Committee Minutes
February 1st Executive Committee Meeting**
Motion: Jennifer Smith, to approve and forward to the Board of Directors, the February 2017 Executive Committee Minutes as presented to the Executive Committee.
Second: Robin Rude
Discussion: None
Motion Carried
- **Approval of EDA/EDC Financials – Jim Tevlin
January 2016 Financials**
Jim reported on the January financials for EDA and EDC. He mentioned GE has agreed to forego the incentives that were owed to them for calendar year 2016 and 2017 for both EDA and EDC.
Motion: Cory Moore, to approve and forward to the full Board, the January 2017 Financials, as presented to the Executive Committee.
Second: Sheri Nicholson
Discussion: None
Motion Carried
- **Executive Director's Report – Steve**
Steve gave an update on a couple of his Executive Director Report items. He received a letter from our state legislature regarding investment at Montana State University of Billings. He provided a copy of the letter enclosed in the Agenda Board packet. He sent an email response to Representative Kelker and asked her to share it with the delegation. He also sent a similar letter to the Gazette. It will appear as a guest editorial. This is a significant issue that we have identified over the years as it will drive change, innovation, and economic opportunity for our community. It is also part of the work we do in the context of BillingsWorks and Workforce Development. Steve and John Brewer met with Dr. Ron Larsen, Interim Chancellor, yesterday and will be meeting with Bill Kennedy and Martha Sheehy to see what more they can do to ensure that our universities are successful.

➤ **Program Directors Updates**

PTAC Base-Year Application as PTAC State Sponsor – Deanna

Deanna discussed the PTAC Program. Every year PTAC applies for funds. On April 2, their applications for what's known as the base year are due.

Motion: Eric Simonsen, to forward to the full Board approval of the PTAC Program base-year application budget.

Second: Sheri Nicholson

Discussion: None

Motion carried

BillingsWorks-Update – Karen

Melanie welcomed Karen Baumgart then spoke on her behalf as this is Karen's first day with Big Sky Economic Development as the new Director of BillingsWorks. Karen will begin working on the 2017 State of the Workforce Report. This is one of the hot topics in BillingsWorks right now. One thing coming up immediately and that will be discussed at the Special Board Meeting is the Career and Technical Education Memorandum of Understanding.

Steve mentioned this is the last week to complete the 2017 Employer Survey.

The EDA/EDC Joint Executive Committee and Big Sky Economic Development staff introduced themselves to Karen Baumgart.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 am

Next Meeting – April 5, 2017 – Rosebud Room, Granite Tower

Respectfully submitted,
David Trost, EDC Chair

When approved, minutes will be filed electronically in the Big Sky EDA office.