



DRAFT Minutes – February 9, 2017 – Approved March 9, 2017
Iron County Economic Partnership Board of Directors (ICEP)
ICEP Office, 132 N. Main, Ironton, MO 63650

A regular meeting of the Iron County Economic Partnership Board of Directors was called to order at 5:35 pm by Tim S. A reading of the purpose of ICEP was provided by Tim and the invocation was provided by Chris D.

Directors present in person were: Nathan McKie, Tim Sappington, Chris Dinkins and Gary Lotz. Brian M. was present by phone. Also present were: Sandy Francis, Erich Jett, Brian Parker, Michael Wiseman (Edward Jones), Don Barzowski and Mike Alesandrini. A quorum was established.

- During the **Public Comments / Questions**, Mike W. with Edward Jones provided a report on the investment accounts. Mike confirmed that the following directors will remain as authorized on the investment accounts: Nathan M., Christina D., Tim S. and Brian M. Gary L. will be added as an authorized director on the account as well.

During the overview of the ICEP investment accounts, Mike stated that he expects the accounts to continue doing well. He does not recommend any changes to the accounts at this time.

No further public comments or questions.

- **Approval of Minutes** of the January 20, 2017 minutes. Tim called for a vote to approve the minutes. During discussion, the following correction was made on page 2 under the Investment Committee Report/ Recommendations paragraph:
 - ... After discussion, the board decided not to include a line item in the budget for advertising. The ICEP board prefers not to be the direct advertising entity for the county.

Motion made by Chris and seconded by Gary to approve the minutes as amended. All directors present voted yes; Brian M. voted yes by phone. Motion passed.

- Erich J. provided an overview of his written report on **Update Regarding Grant Applications**. An update to the report: Erich and Tim S. will meet with a USDA representative March 9th to further discuss the Rural Business Development Grants that were recently submitted.

There remains a stumbling block to obtain broadband grants with the official government stance that Iron County is fully covered for rural broadband (cellular service). There is opportunity to compete for up to \$3 million in funding from USDA grants in relation to rural broadband if the coverage issue can be resolved. Erich will continue to work on this issue.

- **Investment committee report / recommendations** was led by Chris. An update on the progress of the committee recommendations from December was discussed.
 - Erich advised that Delta Regional Authority grants may offer an option for other funds to help offset some of the administrative budget items.
 - Micro Grants are considered \$5,000 or less and should be related to specific projects as recommended in the Invest in Iron County Report, i.e. car rental. Nathan reviewed a document from February 2014 that includes prioritized items.

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- Copies of the Implementation Matrix from the Invest in Iron County Report were distributed to the board. After discussion, Tim requested that the board review the Invest in Iron County Report, Implementation Matrix and the document that Nathan provided to identify projects needed and come ready to discuss at the March meeting.
- The **2017 Budget** approved at the January meeting was for operating expenses only. The outstanding balance of previously approved funding requests for Missouri Highlands Healthcare and Fort Davidson Café are expected to be disbursed in 2017.

Sandy recommended amending the budget to increase Dues to include membership in the Missouri Economic Development Council for \$175. Discussion included areas that Sandy should be involved in to make connections for the benefit of Iron County. Tim suggested that Sandy should not only have the contacts through membership with MEDC, but also attend a conference or two. After discussion concluded, Brian M. made a motion to increase this line item to \$300 for the year. Seconded by Nathan. All directors present voted yes, Brian M. voted yes by phone, motion carried.

- **Board Vacancies** – Kevin Perry submitted his resignation on January 23, 2017 effective immediately. Tim thanked Kevin for his service to Iron County and requested recommendations he might have for the board moving forward. Kevin’s response was provided to the board for review and discussion.

Nathan stated that he spoke to Representative Fitzwater regarding moving forward with the Elephant Rocks State Park project and the proposed Trolley. Chris added that this would be a good time to follow up on these projects now that there is a Director at DNR.

Treasurer’s Report was led by Brian with a review and discussion of the Financial Statement from Buckley accounting and the Accounts Payable spreadsheet prepared by Sandy. There were no bills to approve. During a discussion regarding the credit card use, Gary made a motion to raise the credit limit to \$3,000 since we are now paying bills. Nathan seconded. All directors present voted yes. Brian M. voted yes by phone. Motion passed. Chris will contact US Bank regarding the credit limit and to change the card in her name to Brian Matt as Treasurer.

Elephant Rocks Visitor Center. Brian M. requested that Charter contact information be forwarded to him to follow up on this matter. Sandy will provide that information.

Invest in Iron County Report recommendations, findings or other issues addressed. Tim updated the board regarding substantial contact Sandy has made with local employers. She will continue to reach out to these employers. Tim emphasized that we need to be connected to all parts of the county to be a resource when needed to businesses and organizations.

Sandy advised that she has also had some new interest in rental car business from multiple parties.

After discussion, it was decided that Sandy will print 25 black and white copies of the Invest in Iron

County Report, purchase the spiral binding “cones” and get the copies bound by using the AV school’s machine.

Director of Partnership Development was reviewed.

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Report on Amtrak / Related Projects, Infrastructure Requirements. The board discussed marketing the tourism based businesses via Amtrak and the ICEP website. It was agreed that having tourism packages for planning visits to the area and marketing those packages on Amtrak will be the best way to increase tourism spending. Sandy will follow up with Carol K. regarding work she is doing with Amtrak to promote area tourism.

Discussion also included obtaining more information about qualifications to become a Designated Marketing Organization for Iron County or possibly a regional effort to obtain this designation.

Awards, Project Funding Proposals, Payment Requests – Discussion included simplifying the required reporting once a business has received all approved funding and is in the reporting stage of the agreement. Sandy will follow up with each business to obtain required information in a quick email response format.

Sandy will also follow up with businesses to obtain UCC documentation on specific equipment purchases in Funding Agreements with that requirement.

Community Event Funding Applications: A request was received for the 2017 AV Bar B Que Battle. Don B. shared information about additions planned for this year. Discussion and vote will be held during closed session.

Setting of March meeting date was discussed. Meetings were moved back to the second Thursday to allow time for financials to be obtained prior to the meeting.

A motion was made at 7:22 pm by Chris. and seconded by Nathan to move into closed session as authorized by RSMo 610.021, Paragraph 14 regarding records which are protected from disclosure by law. All directors approved, motion passed.

At 7:55 pm, a motion was made to come out of closed session. The board returned to open session.

Closed meeting decisions to report:

Based on a review of the budget and outstanding obligations to previously approved funding requests, it was the decision of the board to not accept any Community Event Grants for 2017 at this time. Sandy will prepare a letter to the organization requesting a funding for their event.

All other funding requests will be considered based on the recommendations in the Invest in Iron County Report. A copy of this report is available on our website under “About Us.”

A payment request presented by Fort Davidson Café per their Funding Agreement was reviewed and approved for payment.

Motion made by Chris at 8:10 pm to adjourn. Seconded by Tim. All directors approved.

Respectfully submitted, Gary Lotz, ICEP Board Secretary