



Regional Development Authority Board Meeting Minutes

The May 22, 2020 meeting of the Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) was held virtually. Ms. Pruitt, Chair, called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and it was noted there was a quorum present.

RDA Board Members Present: John Affleck-Graves, University of Notre Dame
Dallas Bergl, INOVA Federal Credit Union
John DeSalle, Hoosier Racing Tire
Pete McCown, Community Foundation of Elkhart County
Kristin Pruitt, Lakeland Financial

Others Present: Regina Emberton & Sarah Kovich, South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership
Stephen A. Studer, Krieg DeVault LLP (by phone)
Debbie Gardner & James Turnwald, MACOG

Report of Secretary

Ms. Emberton confirmed that the required [public notice](#) was made for the meeting.

Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting

There were no additions or corrections to the [February 19, 2020 Minutes](#).

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 19, 2020 MEETING AND AFTER BEING DULY SECONDED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports of Officers, Consultants and Staff

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Bergl reviewed the current financial status of the RDA and presented the [YTD 04.30.20 Financial Statements](#), as well as an accounting of the [payments](#) recommended for ratification and approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE YTD APRIL 30, 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED AND AFTER BEING DULY SECONDED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RATIFY ALL INVOICES APPROVED AND PAID BY THE TREASURER OR PENDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF THE BOARD AND AFTER BEING DULY SECONDED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2019 Audit

Mr. Bergl reported that LWG conducted the annual audit and in their opinion, the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Further, in LWG's opinion, Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2019. He provided the [2019 Audit](#) and [Management Rep Letters](#) for board action.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2019 AUDIT OF THE NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND AFTER BEING DULY SECONDED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Krieg DeVault Legal Services

There was a brief discussion on the proposal to increase the hourly rate for the engagement with Krieg DeVault for legal services. The Board noted the level of service being excellent and that the proposed hourly rate that continued to be a substantial discount from the standard rate.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE UPDATED KRIEG DEVAULT SERVICES AGREEMENT AND AFTER BEING DULY SECONDED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MACOG Accounting Services

Ms. Emberton provided a copy of the [Amendment](#) to the Contract between MACOG and the RDA for accounting services, following approval at the February 19, 2020 meeting.

Reports of Committees and Partners

Regional Partnership

The Board discussed the strong economy, especially in Elkhart County within the RV Industry, despite the negative impacts of COVID-19.

Ms. Emberton reported on the activities of the South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership, noting the following highlights. [View Full SBE Regional Partnership Report.](#)

- Brookings Institution engagement with Central Indiana Corporate Partnership to conduct an economic study of the state of Indiana to develop state-level policy recommendations.
- COVID -19 activities, including a Re-Opening Responsibly Survey with data provided to support the Governor's Return to Work plan.
- New data release on net migration declining to -1.75 per 1,000 people between 2018 and 2019.
- Launch of the WE + YOU brand initiative.
- Elevate Ventures hiring Nicholas Kuhn as Elevate Ventures Entrepreneur in Residence.

- Launch of the Startup South Bend – Elkhart Pre-Accelerator Program for innovation-led startups.
- HustleSBE program for existing minority or women owned businesses graduated its first cohort and is taking applications for the second cohort.
- Launch of the DI 360 program to support the creation and maintenance of inclusive environments within regionally based companies.
- High level of activity in company relocation leads throughout Covid-19.
- Indiana Governor’s Workforce Cabinet Local Career Coaching Project.
- LIFT Network updates on the Apprenticeship and Internship taskforces, Innovation Asset Portal development, and website launch for www.LIFTsbe.org and www.iNDustryLabs.com.

Old Business

Regional Cities Initiative

Ms. Emberton updated the Board and provided a [Status Report on RCI projects](#), noting that of the 26 approved projects, 17 have been completed, with the IEDC recently providing Certificates of Completion for the Sand Hill Farms, Hotel Elkhart, Goshen Theater, South Bend Blue Ways, and IUSB Elkhart Center projects. Six projects are under construction and 3 more projects are in the planning phase. A total of \$35.6 million of funding has been disbursed to date. She noted that an impact film was being created to feature the projects and the Return on Investment of the Regional Cities Initiative across the region. The Board discussed the impact of COVID-19 and the possibility of asking the IEDC for a time extension for project completion for those impacted by the pandemic and decided to reassess this at the next meeting.

New Business

CARES ACT Funding

Ms. Emberton reported on the CARES Act federal funding which has been allocated to states, with \$2.6 billion coming through the State of Indiana along with the potential eligible uses of the funds, noting a portion of the funding has already been released to the governmental subunits. Other RDAs in the state are considering serving as an advocate to secure funding for their regions and, if it were of interest to the cities and counties, serving as a conduit for funding based on criteria they established. The Board concluded that if the Mayors and Commissioners requested it, and if there were the possibility to secure additional funding in support of regional projects, the RDA would be willing to play a role. An example would be securing additional funding for upgrading broadband access or other regional projects.

EDA CARES ACT Recovery Assistance Grants

Mr. Turnwald reported on the \$1.5 billion of supplemental funding available through the EDA, with \$225 million allocated to the Chicago Region, which includes Indiana. Approximately \$125 million of that will be available for competitive grants and he provided an overview of eligible expenses, noting they are for assisting economic growth that results in job creation. He shared information on a potential regional application for a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) that would fill gaps and be additive to conventional lending sources, and which could be staffed by MACOG. The Board discussed where the potential role of the RDA, which could include generating awareness and appointing a member to serve on the RLF Committee to review potential deals.

Adjournment

Upon motion made, Ms. Pruitt adjourned the meeting.

Links to Exhibit Documents

- A. [Public Meeting Notice](#)
- B. [February 19, 2020 Minutes](#)
- C. [Treasurer's Report](#)
- D. [YTD 04.30.20 Financial Statements](#)
- E. [2019 Audit](#)
- F. [Management Rep Letters](#)
- G. [Ratification of Payments](#)
- H. [Amendment to MACOG Services Agreement](#)
- I. [SBE Regional Partnership Report](#)
- J. [Status Report on RCI projects](#)