Regional Development Authority Board Meeting Minutes

The May 22, 2024, meeting of the Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) was held at South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership (Regional Partnership), 635 S. Lafayette Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601. Mr. John DeSalle, Chair, called the public meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and it was noted that a quorum was present.

Roll Call

RDA Board Members Present:  
Dallas Bergl, INOVA Federal Credit Union  
John DeSalle, University of Notre Dame  
Kristin Pruitt, Lake City Bank  
Tim Sexton, University of Notre Dame

RDA Board Members Absent:  
Pete McCown, Community Foundation of Elkhart County

Others Present:  
Lori Flotow, South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership  
Debbie Gardner, MACOG  
Bethany Hartley, South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership  
Taryn MacFarlane, South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership  
Stephen A. Studer, Krieg DeVault LLP  
Alayna Wort, South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership

Report of Secretary

Ms. Taryn MacFarlane confirmed that the required public notice was made for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the April 17, 2024 meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2024 MEETING, AND AFTER BEING DULY SECONDED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports of Officers, Consultants and Staff

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Kristin Pruitt presented the Treasurer's Report, which included the year-to-date April 30, 2024 Financial Statements, as well as an accounting of payments recommended for ratification and approval.
A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE YTD APRIL 30, 2024 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.

Reports of Committees and Partners

Regional Partnership
Ms. Bethany Hartley provided updates from the Regional Partnership. View Full SBE Regional Partnership Report.

Old Business

READI 1.0 Update
Ms. MacFarlane provided READI 1.0 updates, highlighting the following:

- Three capital projects are fully disbursed: Potawatomi Zoo, Air Cargo & Logistics Center (SBN), and Mishawaka Fieldhouse.
- Goal is to have at least 65% of the region’s READI 1.0 allocation fully disbursed by September 30, 2024. Currently closing in on 35% of regional allocation being disbursed and individual project check-ins are being conducted to generate cash flow forecasts.

A discussion took place regarding current capital projects statuses and efforts being made to reach the goal of at least 65% disbursement by September 30, 2024. Ms. MacFarlane will provide further project status updates at the next meeting.

Staffing Update
Ms. Hartley shared the following updates regarding staffing and the contract for services between the RDA and Regional Partnership:

- Per the Fourth Amendment of Contract for Services, approved by the RDA board on February 21, 2024, fees for services would shift based on READI 2.0 regional allocation from IEDC.
- Having successfully secured READI 2.0 allocation, changes to the administration fees for services will be reflected in the May 2024 invoice from the Regional Partnership.
- A full-time staff member will be hired by the Regional Partnership to serve as a READI Finance Manager in support of READI service functions.

READI 2.0 Update
Ms. MacFarlane presented READI 2.0 updates, featuring information on the proposed READI 2.0 and Lilly Endowment, Inc. (LEI) Rollout Timeline 2024. Highlights included:
• LEI applications due to Regional Partnership staff by June 15, 2024.
• READI 2.0 request for local project proposals and workshop series commence June, 2024.
• July 16, 2024 RDA board meeting; board decides on LEI projects for submission to the IEDC.
• August 21, 2024 RDA board meeting; READI 2.0 applications due to the Regional Partnership.
• October 16, 2024 RDA board meeting; READI 2.0 project presentations to the RDA board.
• November 20, 2024 RDA board meeting; board votes on READI 2.0 project awards.
• Timeline is extendable but proposed dates are with the intention of meeting IEDC’s official due dates, which have not yet been provided.

A brief discussion took place regarding the proposed timeline, which will be adjusted as needed as more information on deadlines becomes available.

**Special Project Presentation**
Mr. Jeff Rea, South Bend Regional Chamber (SBRC), presented information on a proposed use of funds for a special allocation the 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly made to our region (the RDA). The request is to use funds to support the development of a Career Center and Technical school for high school students in the region. Highlights included the following:

• SBRC continues to work closely with their partners on the development of a Career Center in building 84 of the former Studebaker complex in downtown South Bend.
• Partners include South Bend Community School Corporation, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, School City of Mishawaka, Career Academy Network of Schools, New Prairie United School Corporation, St. Joseph High School, Marian High School, Purdue Polytechnic High School. enFocus has also played a key part in convening stakeholders and the gathering and analyzing of data to inform the plans.
• Anticipate serving students from the above-listed partners, as well as the region’s surrounding counties.
• Construction to begin late this summer with a planned opening in August, 2025.
• Career Center will offer students Career and Technical Education (CTE), based on Indiana Next Level Programs of Study.
• Per statute, the RDA is the fiduciary body to disburse funds for this special allocation.

The RDA thanked Mr. Rea for his presentation.

**New Business**
July 17, 2024 meeting will be moved to July 16, 2024, from 3:30 – 5:00 pm EST at South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership, 635 S. Lafayette Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601, to accommodate board members’ schedules.
Other Items/Upcoming Dates

Meeting Schedule
The next meeting will be held June 26, 2024, from 3:30 – 5:00 pm EST at South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership, 635 S. Lafayette Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601.

Any updates to meeting information will be posted on the South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership website: https://southbendelkhart.org/regional-development-authority/northern-indiana-regional-development-authority-2024-public-meeting-notice/

Adjournment
Upon a motion made, the Chair adjourned the public meeting.