



BCEDA QUARTERLY MEETING Minutes – 2/21/19

The BCEDA held a quarterly meeting on February 21, 2019, at Station Grill (Upper Level Meeting Room). President Heather Stone called the meeting to order at 5:50pm. Those in attendance were Tim Pierce, Shari Beckstrand, Lisa Quattrochi, Ed DiPino, Greg Sheperd, John Casinelli, Mark Karnoupakis, Bud Billiard, Michael Traubert, Jim Lyle, Alexandra Eberle, Dave Klick, Matt Burch, Rick Clancy, Tim Ennis, Jay McLaughlin, Tim Hooper, Norm Schwertfeger, Larry Swanson, ME Yancosek Gamble, Heather Stone, Jeff Crook, Stacy Hooper, and Stacey Wise.

Introductions of new & board members were made along with a thank you for Joan Simonetti Beck's extensive work as the outgoing secretary for the EDA and incoming AmeriCore VISTA worker. M.E. Revealed that the EDA now has a social media presence and that the meeting will be lived. The hope is that people who are unable to attend would be able to remotely view it or at another time. Round robin introductions were made.

1. BIZ-HIVE – Building Entrepreneur Infrastructure

a. Background

- i. The main goal was to build an entrepreneurial support system. There is a current lack of connection and education for those who would like to start a business with no clear support on where/how to do that or how to move their business forward. Along with other collaborators, M.E. was able to get a business class started where students could earn hands on training while also helping small business with skills and experiences they have acquired starting with the Social Media aspect of each business. As a result, the Business Education Team (BET) collaborative was started which includes High School and College institutions.

b. Accomplishments & Goals

- i. A cross-functional team which would seek stakeholder representation was formed. They were able to asses needs, develop strategic plans, and also helped implement quality programs to support business formation and development. As a result, 6 businesses that were a part of the initial program revealed that they were able to approach their Social Media Plan differently and as a result use some of those skills in other areas of their businesses. The BET team was then able to support and attend local competitions, seminars, groups etc. that helped businesses either begin their start-up or reimagine their plans.

c. Building Resources to Support Entrepreneurs

- i. This process further revealed through assessment that materials, support, mentoring, and interning opportunities were lacking in all areas. The need for a portal that could be seen as a one-stop-shop began to link existing data and build a searchable database of all current resources and events. Further collaborations between both entrepreneurial programs from Bethany, West Liberty, WV Northern, WVU, Wheeling Jesuit, etc. have further provided access to additional resources.



- d. Growing B2B Entrepreneur and Mentor Networks
 - i. There is need for further information, feedback, and recruitment in order to make the portal and partnerships a success and to further assess what business' need on an ongoing basis. Mentorship opportunities are being currently assessed as well as the need for internship opportunities. Would like to bring a panel of the following to the next meeting: businesses that can showcase success stories, and local schools & colleges with their "we can help with" ideas (i.e. business plan development, future workforce prospects, web & social media design and planning, etc.).
 - ii. The goal of EDA is for those present to see the group as a liaison to all individuals and entities involved in order to help facilitate the link to what you need.
2. Business Meeting
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2019 was made by Michael. It was seconded and passed.
 - b. Larry corrected the amount shown on the financial report due to fact that the VISTA check has not cleared. Corrected amount summited for approval was \$7,112.63. A motion to approve financial report was made by Michael. It was seconded and passed.
 - c. Warren Scott had been an integral part of our community and highly supportive that as a result he was nominated for the 1st Annual Community Voice Award. He was unable to accept it this evening but will accept it in person at a later event.
 - d. Joan in her new role as a VISTA will center her new role with Community Engagement. Her home base will be the WVU Office in Wellsburg as well as utilizing the libraries in Brooke and Hancock County.
 - e. Commission/Community Updates
 - i. Bethany – See attachment
 - ii. County Commission – future opportunities are in the works and will be discussed at future meetings; heavily working on communication system for the first responders, fire fighters, and police.
 - f. A motion was made to appoint Alexandra Eberle as the BCEDA Secretary by Bud. It was seconded and passed.
 - g. A motion to accept the Bylaws as presented was made by Larry. It was seconded and passed.
3. Future Dates:
 - a. BCEDA Quarterly Meeting,
 - i. May 16, 2019, 5:30 pm – proposed change to Thursday, May 2 (Follansbee)
 - ii. August 22, 2019, 5:30 pm – proposed change to Thursday, August 1 (BHP, Wellsburg)
 - b. Entrepreneur Pitch Contest, September 2019 - Luke Diserio, Chair
 - c. BCEDA Economic Summit, November 21, 2019, 5:30 pm – proposed change to Thursday, November 1 (TBD)
4. Reports & Handouts of those in attendance have been attached to this report.
 - a. Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce 3rd Annual Dinner & Awards Night Flyer
 - b. Village of Beech Bottom Update 2-21-19



Motion to adjourn was made at 7:15 pm and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra L. Eberle

Alexandra L. Eberle, Secretary