



DATE: 6/14/19
TO: See Distribution
SUBJECT: MINUTES - BCEDA QUARTERLY MEETING, May 2, 2019, 5:30 pm,
Community Center, Follansbee, WV

1. **Call to Order & Welcome:** President Stone called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and welcome everyone to the second quarter meeting of the Brooke County Economic Development Authority
2. **Secretary:** Ms. Simonetti will be taking minutes as Ms. Eberle had another business meeting this evening.
3. **Attendance:**
 - A. Quorum - Ms. Simonetti confirmed that there was a quorum of BCEDA Board Members present for the meeting so that business could be transacted.
 - B. Attendance - See **ATTACHMENT-1**. Ms. Stone asked participants to sign the attendance roster and introduce themselves.
4. **Business Meeting:** The business meeting started at 6:05 pm
 - A. Ms. Stone opened the business meeting at 6:00 pm and kicked off the meeting with making a special presentation, the Community Voice Award, to Mr. Warren Scott for his years of service to the community.
 - B. Norm Schwertfeger and Larry Swanson motioned to accept the minutes for the February 21, 2019 meeting as written and previously distributed. The motion carried.
 - C. Financial Update:
 - i. Treasurer Larry Swanson reported that the Audit is ready to commence. Following this announcement Mr. Swanson confirmed that required financial data was sent to the auditors in Charleston during May.
 - ii. Mr. Swanson advised that a check for \$10,000 was received from the Brooke County Commission for this year's initial allocation. The account balance prior to the receipt of this check was \$6633.88. Following the payment of some small expenses, the organization's balance is \$16,507.88. \$5,000 is being set aside to cover the costs of the audit.
 - iii. **ATTACHMENT-2** shows the EOM April Financial Report.
 - D. VISTA Report: Joan Simonetti, AmeriCorps/VISTA, provided the group with a verbal report highlighting various projects. Her written report is reflected in **ATTACHMENT-3**. A Business Education Survey was introduced and distributed at the meeting. This shall be sent to the BCEDA Distribution List in June through Joan and Alex, seeking community input on needs.
 - E. Ms. Stone advised that requests for funding will be reviewed and voted upon this evening:
 - i. Ag Day, May 16/17 = 220 5th graders will be hosted and introduce to over 10 stations and 34 career options reported Ms. Greathouse; expenses include park support services, busses, lunches, etc. Estimated program expense is \$3000. The RC&D Council will allocate \$2000 and another \$1000 is needed to complete program implementation. This will be the 10th year that we have sponsored this program for our youth. Norm Schwertfeger and Ed DePino motioned that the group approve \$1000; the motion passed.
 - ii. PITCH Contest, August 9, Brooke High School. This will be the fourth year that the program is administered for the two-county area. Sponsors include the Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce

- and others in the community; the BCEDA contributed \$3200 last year Norm Schwertfeger and Bud Billiard motioned that \$3500 be approved for this program year; the motion passed.
- iii. Farmers Market, June 19/22 – No request has been received to date. Therefore, any action on this program is tabled to a later date.
 - iv. BET/BizHive Projects (new, 2019) – This is a new budget item advised M. E. Yancosek Gamble. It includes small business development workshops, internship expenses, Ohio Valley Greats pilot, and additional work on the website; between \$1700 and 2000 is estimated. A motion for \$2000 was presented by Bud Billiard and Norm Schwertfeger. The motion passed. **ATTACHMENT-4** is sample of request/allocation.
 - v. Student Bridge Engineering Project (new, 2020) – Ms. Greathouse advised that this new program offers over 40 BHS students with the opportunity to tour the new bridge through Flatiron. A bus will be needed for this event. The representative of the Brooke County Schools, Mr. Cory Murphy, Deputy Superintendent of Brooke County Schools, stated that the school system will provide the bus free of charge. Ms. Greathouse advised that once we get more information on needs, then there may be a need to make a future budget allocation proposal. Action shall be tabled to a later date once more information is available.
 - vi. Community Garden Project: Norm Schwertfeger asked for \$500 to pay for topsoil, seeds, and miscellaneous expenses associated with this community project at Primary South. Bud Billiard and John Casinelli offered a motion to support this project. The motion passed.
 - vii. Mr. Swanson stated that other project proposals and/or funding requests may be submitted to the BCEDA. It is requested that each group that request/receives funds provide a brief written report to include project description, deliverables, and actual fund usage.

5. **Commission & Community Updates:** Participants were asked to share highlights of business, economic, municipal planning, infrastructure, and community initiatives. NOTE: Please furnish written reports so these can be attached to the minutes to assure that we are capturing all of the great work in our communities).
- A. Tim Ennis reported on various Commission projects including Communications 911; the courthouse expansion program, flat iron fill support, powerplant, and related updates.
 - B. Brooke County Public Library – See **ATTACHMENT-5**
 - C. Pat Ford provided multiple reports on various activities occurring in the region:
 - i. Follansbee Chamber is kicking of the year with many activities including needs surveys, business after hour events, new business ribbon cutting celebrations, National Manufacturing Day, Blue Math Day, Stem Scholarships, and other events that can be viewed on the calendar.
 - ii. Beech Bottom Development continues with a \$5. 2 MM loan, \$3.2 M grant. Jupiter Aluminum (roof, floor, and power grid renovations). BDC is collaborating with the Wellsburg URA (\$150 K) for Charles and Main Street projects and site remediation; property repurposing (\$550K), e.g., Snyder gas station, glass house demolition, etc.
 - iii. Other: Currently working on the disposition of the two (2) middle schools. Bison Inn repurposing is an active Bethany project. Follansbee has recently sold part of the former Follansbee Steel site. In Weirton, \$1.2MM to prepare the site for Pietro Fioritini (41-110 jobs); collaborating with Weirton Chamber for economic summit-related activities including construction of a training center; an investment group is planning a new hotel on Three Springs Drive.
 - iv. Pat introduced his new intern, Johanna Weiler, from West Liberty University.
 - D. Follansbee: Mayor Velegol advised that an \$8-10 million sewer project in planned. John Casinelli stated that a water displacement project with FEMA should mean many trades jobs; work is valued at \$2-3 MM. See Monday Music Madness flier. **ATTACHMENT-6.**

- E. Brooke County Schools – Corey Murphy advised that this is the 50th graduating class at Brooke High School this year. He indicated that the school system is pleased to work with the community to expand educational, internship, and related programs.
- F. Wellsburg Chamber – Nanci Walker reported that Luke Diserio is the president and is working with Joe Barone, Shale Directories, to host an Ohio Valley Development Forum in Wellsburg on October 30. In addition, plans are underway for the Pitch Contest; more details will be announced in future weeks.
- G. Regional Tourism – Norm Schwertfeger announced that the tri-state, 11 county organization is now meeting every other month to review tourism events and exchange ideas. A website has been created to support the groups efforts.
- H. Phil Diserio – Discussed several initiatives including free technical community colleges; social security exemption for SS; expungement bill to help with jobs; a foster care bill. He mentioned that he met with several people associated with the House of Hope initiative. A special session is planned for May to address educational needs.
- I. Bill Ihlenfeld – Sponsored the Education Bill; the WV Invests initiative will have its own website (<http://wvinvests.org/>). He suggested that there be a community event to show people how to apply for “free college tuition; he noted that part of the qualification includes satisfactory drug testing results. NOTE: Programs at the high school and college level are possible. Joan and Mary Elizabeth shall follow up with WVNCC at the Business Education Team Meeting. Stacey and Corey will look at a high school level program.
- J. Stacy Hooper – Mentioned that there are fundraising opportunities through Ways and Means youth teams. Students can earn Service Hours Part of the monies raised could be reallocated to support scholarship. This will be added to the agenda for the upcoming Business Education Team meeting in May.

5. **Meeting Adjournment:** Motions were made by Larry Swanson and Norm Schwertfeger to adjourn - 8:30 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Brooke County AG Day, Brooke Hills Park, May 16/17
- Brooke County Farmers Market, June 19 (Follansbee)/22 (Wellsburg)
- Business Education Team, May 9, 5:30 pm, Drovers (rescheduled to May 30)
- BCEDA Quarterly Meeting, July 18, 5:15 pm, WVNCC, Weirton, WV (rescheduled from August 1)
- Business Education Team, August 1, 5:30 pm, Drovers (rescheduled from August 8)
- Entrepreneur Pitch Contest, August 9, 5:30 pm – Brooke High School - Luke Diserio, Chair
- Ohio Valley Development Summit, October 30
- Business Education Team, October 24, 5:30 pm, Drovers
- Community Development Think Tank, October 29, Buckhannon, WV
(Register online <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-development-think-tank-tickets-60949332093>)
- BCEDA Economic Summit, November 7, 5:30 pm – Bethany College, Bethany Club room (\$10 per person)

Prepared by:

Joan E. Simonetti, VISTA/AmeriCorps

Attachments (6)