**Pike County Economic Development Corporation**

**Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes**

**Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room**

**December 26, 2017**

**Attendees**

Brenda Middendorf, Kaye Iftner, Patrick Conley, Jeff Hogge, Blake Roderick, Kent Goewey, Robert Wood, Craig Gengler, Max Middendorf.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Conley, Chairman at 5:30pm. Meeting agenda and September 2017 Quarterly Meeting minutes were provided via email to members and were available for review.

**Minutes**

After review, Blake Roderick made the motion to approve the minutes as written, second, Robert Wood. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Craig Gengler summarized the Balance sheet as of December 26, 2017. Total Liabilities & Equity $57,615.68. Profit & Loss January 1-Decm 21, 2017: Program Income from Membership dues $36,320.00. Program Income from Program service fees $19,490.00. Total Program Income $55,810.00. Total Expense $42,551.72. Net Income $13,734,92. Brenda noted that PCEDC will receive $13,000 less from the Pike County Board this year. There is $6,650 outstanding as of this date. Jeff Hogge made a motion to place the financial report on file, Robert Wood, second. Motion carried.

**Director’s Report**

Director Brenda Middendorf reviewed the written interim director’s report for December, 2017. Brenda reported that the Il AG 990 had not been received by the Attorney General’s office even after faxing. The report will be resent using Registered mail with receipt required. Hope to have late fees waived since it was mailed on time. The Rural Business Enterprise Grant through USDA Rural Development was not funded for technical assistance to small businesses. Rural Development received 32 applications and were only able to fund 6.

The next Quarterly Board meeting will be the Annual Meeting. A Nominating Committee and Annual Meeting Committee will be appointed at the January board meeting. Potential annual meeting sites were discussed which included Hickory Ridge Landfill, John Wood Southeastern Center, and Beard Implement.

**Marketing Report**

A visit from Louis Ferrara, IL Film Office for January 30th to discuss Film Friendly Communities and how to effectively work with the IL Film Office is being scheduled.

Gary has shared leads from the FabTech Show.

He is currently working on a proposal for an Aquaponics business. Wil continue to initiate other aquaponics projects.

He is also getting ready to run second half page ad in Expansion Solutions and researching charging stations for new EV Trucks.

**Quarterly Committee Updates**

**Business Retention & Workforce Development**

The BRWD Committee met Thursday to continue work on the Work Ready program

Currently scheduling the reminder to schools; each school will be visited to remind students about the criteria for the program in January. Training for second year students is also being scheduled for February. This includes a sample job application and one on one training for Pleasant Hill and Western Students and packets created for the Pittsfield High School students. Training for the third year will include Resume Training conducted in February/March prior to the Virtual Job Fair. The Virtual Job Fair in March will include all high school students.Packets of job openings will be prepared and delivered to the Guidance Counselor offices. Students will have the opportunity to pick up a packet and fill out however many applications they want. The packets will be picked up by PCEDC and completed applications sent to the appropriate employer. The committee is also planning the next Business Education Roundtable in February.

**Community Needs /Municipal Issues**

Representatives from the Highway 54 Corridor met with the City of Pittsfield last week. The Highway 54 Corridor regular monthly meeting will be held in Pike County on Jan. 18th at 10:00 am. Format will be similar to one previous. The pier foundation construction is progressing on the Champ Clark Bridge. The project will include a total of eight drilled shafts across four river piers.

Another public hearing was held on the Florence Bridge. The Illinois 100/106, Florence Bridge, River Crossing Study was started in April 2016, and is anticipated to take three years to complete. This study represents the Phase I, planning portion of the project, which provides preliminary engineering and environmental impact evaluation to guide the project in future phases of work. This study is the only funded portion of the project. Phase II (Design Plan Development), Land Acquisition, and Phase III (Construction) are currently not funded in the Department’s Proposed Highway Improvement Program. IDOT has however secured $14 million of Major Bridge Funds to repair/rehabilitate the existing bridge in the current FY 17-22 Multi-Year Program. They have added another option 4c/d which is 300’ south of the current bridge since the last public hearing. The most favorable options are:

Alternative 4A is 100’ north of existing bridge

Alternative 4C is 100’ south of existing bridge

Alternative 4C/D is 300’ south of existing bridge

Alternative 5B is 4,500 south of existing bridge.

**Small Business/Entrepreneurship**

Had a very successful Small Business Institute on Dec. 3. The daylong seminar included a breakfast and lunch. The morning began with presentations from various agencies including Workforce Innovation Board, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Small Business Development Center, John Wood Community College, Illinois Treasurer, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity & Pike County Chamber of Commerce. This was followed by breakout sessions covering 15 different topics including: Quickbooks, Word Press Training for Websites, Starting a Business in Illinois, Linked In, Trademarks & Patents, Cyber Security, Emergency Preparedness, Social Media for Businesses, Insurance, Unemployment Benefits, Legal Pitfalls, International Trade, Finances, and Succession Planning. Registration included members from Adams, Brown and Pike Counties. It was a very successful conference with about 75 attendees.

**Renewable Energy/Telecommunications**

Update on Solar Landowner meeting – About 50 landowners attended. Farm Bureau had an attorney present to answer questions.

Illinois Winds- Reported that they are still progressing well with the project.  They received the System Facilities Study back from Prairie Power related to the interconnection process last week.  That study is currently under review and they expect it to be finalized next month.  Prairie Power is also now working on the draft Generator Interconnect Agreement which they hope to receive from them next month also.

**Old Business**

The Peace Corps Fellowship interview did not result in a placement of an intern. However, there appears to be a good candidate for next August.

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity is still trying to design a plan for transferring/closing the Revolving Loan Fund. In the mean time we will still be invoicing clients and recording payments and completing the semi-annual report as of Dec. 31, 2017.

**New Business**

Highway 54 Corridor Group Update

Representatives from the Highway 54 Corridor met with the City of Pittsfield on Dec. 19th. PCEDC will host the January Highway 54 Corridor meeting on the 18th at the Pike County Farm Bureau auditorium.

County Board Funding

Funding has been reduced by $13,000 for the coming year. Brenda will be working with the PCEDC Board to adjust the budget for this year.

CEDS Disaster Planning

Brenda reported that she, Kaye Iftner and Jeff Hogge were working in conjunction with Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials to create a regional disaster plan which would also include county specific disaster planning. Josh Martin has been asked to participate. This is a supplement to the Comprehensive Economic Development strategic plan required by the U S Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration. There is a local Community Group that meets regularly. Their next meeting is Jan. 18th which conflicts with the Highway 54 meeting.

**Chairman’s Comments**- Patrick Conley had no comments.

**Visitor Comments**- None

**Member Updates and Comments**

Kaye – Reported she is working with their web provider to create an enhanced section where employers can post job openings. She has also been asked to quantify the economic benefit of Girls Night Out and is working with Robin Hanna to obtain figures.

Blake – Reported the remodeling is done and there is 750 square feet for rent.

Robert – Ace Hardware is under construction.

Jim – The County Treasurer’s office has set up the option to prepay real estate taxes. Money will be placed in an interest bearing account.

Jeff – Tire pick up was well received in Barry. They are starting a recycling program.

Brenda – Christmas Lodge Tours went well with a larger than usual crowd. They were able to stagger the buses to accommodate more on Tuesday. One of the charter groups is coming back in the summer to visit the Civil War Reenactment. Access Food program is going well.

**Adjournment**

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn by Kent Goewey, second, Robert Wood. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brenda Middendorf.

Next Executive/Voting Meeting-Monday, January 22, 2017.

Next meeting: Quarterly Meeting-March 26 or Annual Meeting Date