**Pike County Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room**

**November 25,2019**

**Attendees**

Brenda Middendorf, Patrick Conley, Max Middendorf, Jeff Hogge, Jim Brown, Jim Sheppard, Dallas Thueringer, Craig Gengler, Robert Wood, Patrick Conley

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patrick Conley at 5:30pm.

**Minutes**

Meeting agenda and October Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. After review, Max Middendorf made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Robert Wood seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Brenda Middendorf summarized the financial report. Balance Sheet as of November 22, 2019, Current Assets $76,934.11 Total Liabilities & Equity $776.934.11. Profit & Loss October 28 through November 22 2019, Gross Profit $1,002.71, Total Expenses $1,665.11 Net Income-662.40. Profit & Loss January 1, 2019-November 22, 2019, Total Program Income $55,376.45, Total Income $56,684.90, Total Expense - $50659.73 Net Income $6,025.17. Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison, January 1-November 22, 2019 $6025.17, January 1-November 22, 2018 $13,714.21. Income by Customer Summary $35,810.00.

**Marketing & Attraction Report**

Continue to work with Project AP on funding and IL DCEO incentives.

* + Received for enhancements to the Pike/Pittsfield location – increased investment to $25 million, shared confidential artist renderings with B.Middendorf – progress is being made on Opportunity Fund financing – possible finalization near year end/new year period.
  + Hosted Project AP (Glenn F.)/IL DCEO (S.Garza) conference call (11/22) on incentive application progress and new incentives the project will be eligible for.

Film Office – Hosted conference call with State Film Office, introduced Brenda to NW IL Film Office team.

Attended Fabtech Trade Show in Chicago (Nov 11 -12) leads being processed for distribution.

Attended several Foreign Office Events in Chicago and is seeing interest in possible Ag Themed trade missions.

**Interim Director’s Report**

Met with Cameron Brown, Stark Brothers Nursery, at 200 years, one of the oldest businesses in area. Starks has closed down the retail space transitioning everything to online. First time there will not be an actual printed catalog. Growing everything in hoop houses and greenhouses. Interested in finding ways to connect their business model to attract millennials. May be an opportunity to connect with aquaponics project.

Brenda reported reaching out to John Simmons and hopes he might be interested in investing in aquaponics project.

Brenda has asked Dallas to put together attraction incentives package. She reported that Quincy is also working on an attraction incentive package and is planning a recruitment mission to Puerto Rico in the spring. Immigrant labor force may be of interest to Starks because they are struggling to find employees.

PCEDC was asked to be present at the Rural Economic Development Conference this February.

Brenda and Dallas met with Pat McGinnis with the Lower Illinois River Valley. Brenda has been asked to serve on board.

**Enter into Closed Session for Voting Members**

Motion was made to go into closed session by Jim Brown, Craig Gengler second. Motion carried. Entered Closed Session at 6:00pm.

**Old Business**

U S Census - PCEDC will be hosting another recruiting event on Dec. 18 from 11 to 3 at JWCC. Wages have been increased to $17.50 per hour. There still are about 20 vacancies. Work is also being done to create a Complete Count Committee.

Film Office – 2019 was a record-breaking year for film making in Illinois with over $500 million; most in the Chicago area but we are hoping that our new film office will draw attention to other options in the state. There is workforce training program including a grant to train young people to enter the production force; training is currently available for “gaffer” position. Will be creating a database for crews, support services, hotels, accountants, porta potties, etc. working to building this up

**New Business**

Small Business Quality Workplaces

Dallas will be working on creating options for incentives that small businesses can utilize to create a more quality and inviting workplace.

Opportunity Zone

Dallas has been working on creating a Prospectus for the OZ in Pittsfield.

HEMP Workshop

PCEDC will be partnering with Pike Scott Farm Bureau and University of Illinois Extension Center to present an Industrial Hemp Production workshop on January 10th. Speakers will include Phillip Alberti, Il Extension Commercial Ag Educator,; Bill Bodine, Illinois Farm Bureau Director of Business & Regulatory Affairs and Dennison Collard, local producer. Topics will include types of hemp; production systems, licensing, rules and regulations; end products; update on markets and question and answer period.

Rural Broadband -

Maps show that Pike County is covered but, in reality, there are several dead spots. This limits potential funding through grants for expansion of broadband services. The House Energy and Commerce passed by voice vote HR 4229, the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act. This bipartisan bill would improve the accuracy of broadband coverage maps and better direct federal funds for broadband buildout.

**Chairman’s Comments**

None

**Visitor Comments**

None

**Member Updates & Comments**

* + County Market – Busy with hunters and holiday season
  + County -- Solar farm ordinance, open spots for election
  + Max – Wondered how we could get Whitetail Properties to become a member? Work with the film office is a natural connection driving people down to this part of the state
  + Jeff Hogge, Barry – American Fresh Water Fish should be up and running by the second week of January
    - Hunting season is bigger than it had been in a long time
  + Brenda
    - The Access food program is doing well with over 180 deer donated to date
    - Christmas lodge tour is booked

**Exit Closed Session**

A motion was made to exit closed session by Robert Wood, Max Middendorf seconded. Motion carried. Exit Closed Session at 6:43pm.

Motion made, seconded and carried to dispense with a December meeting since it would fall on December 23.

**Adjournment**

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Craig Gengler, second, Jim Brown. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dallas Thueringer, PCEDC Intern.

Next Executive/Voting Meeting: January 27, 2019