**Pike County Economic Development Corporation**

**Executive Board Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Pike County Farm Bureau Building**

**July 26, 2021**

**Attendees**

Brenda Middendorf, Camden Arnold, Patrick Conley, Kent Goewey, Craig Gengler, David Camphouse, Max Middendorf

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Conley, Chairperson, at 5:35pm.

**Minutes**

Meeting agenda and minutes of the May 24, 2021, meeting were provided via email to members for review. Craig Gengler made the motion to approve the minutes, Max Middendorf, second. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Craig Gengler summarized the written Financial Reports. Profit & Loss, January 1-May 21, 2021: Net Income $25,304.76. Profit & Loss April 26-May 21, 2021: Net Income $1,874.98. Balance Sheet as of May 21, 2021: Total Liabilities & Equity $112,760.65. Income by Customer Survey: Total $20,836.00. Previous Year Comparison, January 1-May 21, 2020 vs January 1-May 21, 2021: Net Income 2020 $19,932.39 vs 2021 $25,304.76.

**Director’s Report**

Brenda Middendorf summarized her written report. Camden’s mid-term evaluation happened in June. Two loans for new businesses have closed since the last meeting. We have been attending a lot of webinars on Community Navigator programs and ARPA. Working on putting together a DCEO Economic Development grant for InCity Farms.

**Old Business**

Highway 54 Corridor – Submitted an application for a RAISE grant for shared 4 lane

Pike County RLF – The Final Notice for Floodplain and Wetland was published this week. We are getting close to finishing the ERR and then submitting for review.

**New Business**

The Community Navigator program was discussed at our May meeting. The plan implements a Hub and Spoke concept. We have agreed to participate on the spoke level in two different grant programs both offered through the same Hub which is IIRA. The first one is the DCEO CN and we requested $6,000 to provide assistance to small businesses which is basically what we would be doing anyway. This is to promote the next round of grant funds called Back2Business. The criteria for the grant has not been released so we basically had to estimate based on previous work how much we could spend. The second one is the SBA CN and we requested $100,000 for that one which will allow us to hire a full time Program Coordinator for one year at a salary of $65,000 with a $5,000 stipend for health insurance. The budget also includes travel, supplies, printing and 10% indirect cost. The program is supposed to begin Sept. 14th but our plan included the new hire to start January 1. This delay will allow us to accept applications from December WIU graduates. The position will be advertised once we have been notified that the Hub grant application has been awarded. We have a workshop that shows what the level of commitments were by the other spokes. I was concerned with the overlap with TRRC and JWCC. I reached out several times to TRRC and they kept saying they were busy and would call back, but they never did. In our pre-submittal meetings, the number we were given to work with for our budget numbers was approximately $1,000/business. The national average is $775 but they anticipated that because some of our targets would be underserved and economically disadvantaged that it could take longer and more time. If you look at the table, we are right on target with our numbers, compared to TRRC and some of the other spokes which I feel under shot the goal.

AmeriCorps Update – We completed Camden’s evaluation in June with her Supervisor. At that time, her status was uncertain, but she was considering staying. With that being the case, we still indicated our interest in hosting another intern, but it did not get recorded. Since then, she has decided that she wants to pursue a career in GIS and will be relocating. Unfortunately for us, AmeriCorps interns were placed earlier than scheduled this year so there will be no interns available to replace her January 1 at least at this time. The first available opportunity will be September 2022. Camden has been a very valuable asset to us, and she will be greatly missed BUT we still have her until the end of November and wish her the best.

Two Rivers FB Foundation letter of appreciation was read. We sponsored a hole for $100, which helped them reach their fundraising goal.

Elected Officials Meeting – We will be hosting an Elected Officials meeting on August 16th here at the Pike Scott Farm Bureau auditorium. We will have a speaker on the ARPA that will answer questions about the funds and eligible uses. We will also have the PCHD talk about the tire collection and mosquito collection. The City of Griggsville has offered to host the meeting and provide food.

Tire Collection – Scheduled for August 23 and 24th at the Western Illinois Fairgrounds. As in the past, this will be from ULG’s. There will be someone from EPA this year monitoring the tire collection, so ALL tires must go through Units of Local Government.

Illini Golf Tournament request – Kent Goewey made a tentative motion to be a hole sponsor.

ARPA update – We participated in a webinar on the ARPA funds. DCEO is recommending that if any LGU is still uncertain as to how they would use the funds to go ahead and register to receive the funds before September 30 and then decide how to use them. If you don’t register to receive them by the deadline, the funds will be reallocated. There is a reachback on eligible expenses to March 3, 2021. There is a lot of information on the DCEO website and there will be information at our Elected Officials meeting. While waiting on the first payment, they suggest taking time to review the U S Treasurery Guidance and plan on how to spend the funds and how you can stimulate the economy. There are only Interim rules from the US Treas at this time but normally the final rules are more flexible so if you use the Interim to plan, you should be fine. There is a calculator for revenue loss on the DCEO website. These funds can be used to hire outside help to administer the funds. There is no cap listed but the normal rate is no more than 10% of the funds received. Funds are to be obligated by Dec 31, 2024 and spent by 2026. Annual Report is due with the first on Oct. 31. Final report on March, 2026. Funds can be subgranted to ED organizations but the ULG must monitor how they are spent with internal controls.

**Chairman’s Comments**

None

**Visitor’s Comments**

None

**Member Updates & Comments**

David Camphouse-Pike County Chamber of Commerce: new website for the Chamber-more of a resource for visitors and citizens. Working on program for the restaurants, and recruiting new members.

Craig Gengler – Working on home loans, rates are still good.

Brenda Middendorf-Two Rivers RC&D: ACCESS Food-new grants, Christmas Lodge Tours this year is booked.

Kent Goewey-Griggsville:

Camden Arnold-participated in clean up days with Picture Pittsfield.

Max Middendorf-MECO: MECO is doing good.

**Adjournment**

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kent Goewey. Max middendorf, second. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 6:21pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Camden Arnold.

Next Executive/Voting Meeting: August 23, 2021

Next Quarterly Meeting: September 27, 2021

On Monday, August 2, 2021, Jeff Hogge via email seconded the motion Kent Goewey made to become a Hole Sponsor for Illini Golf fundraiser. Motion approved by Craig Gengler, Casey French, Jeff Hogge, Kent Goewey, and Patrick Conley. Motion carried.