

LA CROSSE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC.

County Administrative Center, Room 3220

Thursday, June 7, 2012

7:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Doyle, Steve O'Malley, Gary Ingvalson, Ray Ebert, Sharon Hampson, Tara Johnson, Dave Lange, Michael Richards, Joe Veenstra, Tina Wehrs, John Wettstein

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dirk Gasterland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Brenengen, Steve Burgess

STAFF & GUESTS: Brian Fukuda, Charlie Handy, Greg Flogstad, Jenny Kuderer, Amy Peterson, Nancy Proctor, Scott Heinig

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF May 3, 2012

MOTION by Hampson/Wehrs to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.** Gasterland excused; Brenengen, Burgess absent.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHER – CP RAIL

Brian Fukuda indicated that this is an annual invoice for \$6,000.00 for the lease of the land under the industrial lead track at the Lakeview Business Park **MOTION** by Ingvalson/Wettstein to approve payment of voucher. **Motion carried unanimously.** Gasterland excused; Brenengen, Burgess absent.

VILLAGE OF HOLMEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SCOTT HEINIG

Administrator Heinig indicated that the Village of Holmen has a desire to be a better partner in regional economic development. Given its position and area for growth, Holmen should be a key player. Administrator Heinig distributed a handout of the Village's economic development activities and opportunities and discussed each of the different sectors of focus. The Village is working on developing a better "sense of place" in their central community by acquiring blighted property, locating public amenities, streetscaping, and using architectural and design controls. The Village has progressive plans for a mix of light industry, business, office, retail and residential within the 950 acre Seven Rivers TID. This presents an opportunity for partnership in locating commercial and industrial development. The Village worked with the Town of Onalaska on a plan for the South Holmen Drive area to create a better entrance to the community. There has been a lot of interest in this area. The North Holmen Drive area presents an opportunity for future growth, with approximately 700 acres planned for mixed commercial and residential. This area is currently mostly in the Town of Holland and primarily agriculture, but does have municipal utilities. Connectivity between subdivisions, around the community, and to neighboring communities is also a big issue for Holmen and they appreciate the partnership of the County in helping address those issues.

Comments from committee included looking at the connections in the Sand Lake Road area, working together to lobby the State for local assistance for our region, and compliments on the South Holmen Drive Plan.

CDBG HOUSING CONSORTIUM

Charlie Handy shared a map of the proposed regions for CDBG Housing Consortia. Our region included 11 counties in Southwest Wisconsin. There was a meeting in Richland Center attended by 10 of the counties in our region at which the counties voted to name La Crosse County as the lead county for our region. This means La Crosse County will be responsible for submitting the grant application, managing the funds, and working with the other counties to implement the program in all 11 counties. Likely funding will be between \$850,000 and \$1,000,000 per year for the consortium. Some of the funds can be used to reimburse for administrative costs. This is a good opportunity for regional collaboration and partnership with other counties that may not have the capacity to be able to manage this on their own. The County Board will need to consider a resolution to join the consortium and accept the role of lead county by the end of July. It was also pointed out that the work of the MRRPC and Couleecap to reassure the other counties of La Crosse County's ability to do this work was key in us being asked to be the lead county.

SKIPPERLINER UPDATE

Dave Lange reported that a final agreement on the loan repayment is very close to being complete. The State is still reviewing the agreement, but the plan is to close on it by the end of next week. Under the agreement, Skipperliner Acquisitions would start monthly payments of \$2,307.68 in October 2012 with a balloon payment in 2021. Dave also noted that the delinquent real estate taxes have been paid.

UPDATE ON SALE OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY

Brian Fukuda reported that a number of tax foreclosure parcels were posted for sale in March 2012, which include mostly remnant parcels, but also three single-family houses, and the parcel at 4th and Jackson Streets in the City of La Crosse. The County has received bids on all but one single-family house and is working toward closing those sales. Community Development staff is working with Couleecap to see if there is any potential for a project with the one remaining single-family house. There was also a bid on the property at 4th and Jackson Streets, which is contingent on a rezoning of the property by the City of La Crosse. The City reports that they are working with the developer and they will likely consider the rezoning request in July 2012.

UPDATE ON LA CROSSE PROMISE

Brian Fukuda reported that the La Crosse Promise Foundation, which is a private non-profit created out of an idea of a work group of the County, City, and School District of La Crosse, made a formal announcement last week. The Foundation has reached its initial fundraising goal and will start operating Future Centers in the fall. Future Centers are advising offices that will be located in Central, Logan, Aquinas, and Luther High Schools, that will focus on working with students to identify viable career goals, the post secondary education necessary to reach those goals, and funding opportunities for post secondary education. The La Crosse Promise is an economic development program that is designed to reverse the identified challenging trends of our community. The La Crosse Promise Foundation is looking to hire two advisors and one secretary that will be employees of the foundation, but will work in the schools.

NEXT MEETING – JULY 5, 2012, AT 7:30 A.M.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Status Report on Lakeview Business Park

Regional Housing Consortium Progress

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Veenstra/Hampson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Gasterland excused; Brenengen, Burgess absent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28a.m.

Approved July 12, 2012, Brian Fukuda, Recorder