

## **LA CROSSE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC.**

La Crosse County Administrative Center, Rm. 3220

Thursday, December 2, 2010

7:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Doyle, Jill Billings (7:35 a.m.), Don Brenengen, Vicki Burke, Dirk Gasterland, Gary Ingvalson (7:38 a.m.), Tara Johnson, Audrey Kader, Dennis Manthei, Steve O'Malley, Michael Richards, Bill Shepherd (7:38 a.m.), Mary Jo Werner, John Wettstein

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Steve Burgess

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Brian Fukuda, Charlie Handy, Margaret Norden, Greg Flogstad, Dave Clements, Travis Robinson, Steve Cahalan, Jean Lunde

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2010**

**MOTION** by Manthei/Kader to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burgess, Ingvalson, Shepherd

### **SUBORDINATION REQUEST ON AUTHENTICOM LOAN**

Brian Fukuda presented a letter from Citizens State Bank, which is assuming Authenticom, Inc.'s debts from Merchants Bank, and has requested that the County acknowledge its subordinate position. He reported that Authenticom is current with its loan payments. **MOTION** by Kader/Manthei to approve the request from Citizens State Bank to acknowledge La Crosse County's subordinate loan position on the Authenticom, Inc., loan. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burgess, Ingvalson, Shepherd excused; Werner abstained.

### **VISITORS CENTER REPORT FROM LACVB**

Dave Clements gave a progress report on the LACVB's visitor center. He reported making contact with approximately 40,000 visitors at the Bridgeview location. They will reopen the I-90 welcome center in 2011. He is seeking funding from area communities, and has so far received support from the Village of West Salem. Suggestions were made to establish a collective, and to save money by forming a La Crosse-Onalaska visitor center.

### **REVIEW OF 2009-10 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND GOALS**

The 2009-10 goals were distributed for review. The following suggestions were made:

- Invite Logistics Health, Inc., Health Science Consortium, and La Crosse Promise to give presentations;
- Invite businesses and organizations from outside the region to give presentations;
- Develop and recommend policy regarding existing Empire Builder rail;
- Research and present the Indiana model regarding their Department of Commerce;
- Research and present economic gardening;
- Garner revenue streams to fund La Crosse County Economic Development;

- Look at other regions' collaborations;
- Have a Board self-assessment of 2009-10 goals and achievements; Chair Doyle asked staff to include the topic on the next agenda.

#### **INPUT ON STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION**

Brian Fukuda reported on Governor-elect Walker's plan to hold a special Legislative session on jobs and economic development. The Wisconsin Counties Association has encouraged input. Discussion was held regarding best practices, how states can add value, and unfunded state mandates. Fukuda stated that the Wisconsin Way Blueprint for Change is available to view on their website. Mike Richards suggested inviting the new State Secretary of Commerce when the position is in place.

#### **SKIPPERLINER INDUSTRIES CHAPTER 128 BUSINESS LIQUIDATION**

Bill Shepherd stated that there are no new developments.

#### **NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 6, 2011, AT 7:30 A.M.**

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Nothing further suggested than previously noted.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Kader/Manthei to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

**Approved,** January 6, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder