

**Juneau County Economic Development Corporation  
Meeting of the Board of Directors & Necedah Community Partners Meeting  
JCEDC Office in Camp Douglas and Via Conference Call  
12pm, Thursday, April 1, 2021**



**Attended:** *In Person: Bonnie Peterson, Gary Robison, Ray Feldman, Randy Reeg, Gary Kirking, Terry Whipple, and Tamaya Loewe. Via Phone: Bill Bomber, Herb Dannenberg, Kathryn Heitman, and Roger Herried. Excused: None.*  
**Absent:** *Jim Costello, and Veronica Meyer.*

President Peterson called the JCEDC Board Meeting and the Necedah Community Partners Meeting to order at 12:00pm.

**Motion to approve the minutes of prior Board Meeting made by Reeg/Feldman was carried.**

Robison read the Treasurer's Report for February: Starting Balance \$20,229.04, Deposits \$77,160.35, Expenses \$13,926.53, Ending Balance \$83,462.86.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Reeg/Dannenberg was carried.**

Next JCEDC Board Meeting is Thursday, May 6. Annual Meeting begins at 5:30pm followed by 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Social Event.

**Motion to approve today's agenda with these additions, made by Reeg/Peterson was carried.**

- Rivers and Bike Trails (Feldman)
- UW-Extension Updates (Kirking)

Necedah Community Update (Herried)

- There's forward movement in the Grove development – some cabins are in and most have sold.
- Veteran's Park expanding, Library parking lot expanding.
- Roadwork scheduled for Hwy 80 North next year, and Hwy 21 intersection in 3 years.
- One downtown building was demolished, Fun Company is still leasing the incubator, Mitotec and Freudenberg are still seeking employees, and the pallet company is trying to reopen.
- Covid has dampened inquiries for business to move into Necedah, but only slightly, not near the extent of the 2008 depression

JCEDC Activity Updates (Whipple)

- Currently completing the Kauffman Business Plan course to better assist I&E Club with preparing business plans.
- Manufacturing Lunchtime Zoomcast series continues. Next one is John Belmonte discussing automation.
- Kelli Ann Blazek from the office of Rural Development has moved on and Kietra Olson is her replacement.
- Working with the Central Wisconsin Economic Development (CWED) organization on another RLF option in addition to the NCWRPC we use currently.
- Local employers are having greater staffing challenges with the additional unemployment funds due to Covid relief efforts.

Administrative & Tourism Updates (Loewe)

- Membership Drive 2021: 50 members, \$5540 revenue. 2020: 67 members, \$6475 revenue.

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- WIGCOT 2021 2 of 4 virtual segments are completed. Takeaways: (1) Avoid offending splinter groups and focus on commonalities, (2) Use reviews in marketing instead of ads, and (3) Recovery from Covid quarantine will be considered the “Traveling twenties”.
- Annual Meeting will be at the Gravity Box Brewing Company in Mauston with Two Sisters Catering. Business meeting begins at 5:30pm to vote on Board Member terms up for re-election: Bonnie Peterson, Herb Dannenberg, and Kathryn Heitman.
- Hidden Valleys Visitor Guide should be out any day now.
- Waterfest 2021 is planning to be as usual on Saturday, August 7.
- DNR is scheduled to complete Bike Trail repairs this summer and reopen the closed sections by Fall 2021.

Rivers and Bike Trails (Feldman):

- Sauk Valley/ Baraboo River Corridor Project continues. In 2020 City of Elroy received \$100K grant to develop their park and the canoe/kayak launch will be improved.
- The Yellow River at north end of JC (Hwy 80 where it crosses the Hwy F Bridge) needs better access. Working with Brian Lloyd to inquire with land owners along the river to find a site for a safer boat landing.

UW-Extension Updates (Kirking):

- Inviting Drew Nussbaum to speak to Juneau County Board of Supervisors at May Meeting on outdoor recreation.
- ALP Steering Committee recently met at the Fountain Chateau, with Bonnie Peterson as the guest speaker. Great event.
- JC has over \$5M coming in from the Federal Covid Relief Fund. The Wisconsin Counties Association recommends using it for water, sewer, broadband, parks and recreation.
- A personal announcement: Gary Kirking is retiring. May 1, 2021, is official last day. All are invited to his retirement party on April 22 at the Target Bluff Shoppes in Camp Douglas.

President’s Remarks & Other Board Discussion:

- (Feldman) Juneau County’s RLF funds that were returned to the state have been requested back by JC for road repairs in Elroy.
- (Bomber) Vilas County is piloting Elon Musk’s Starlink private satellite internet service. For same price as current provider, Starlink is projected to provide service that’s 10 times faster.

**Motion to adjourn meetings by Reeg/Peterson was carried at 1:05pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tamaya Loewe*

Tamaya Loewe, Acting Secretary

*Next Meeting is:*  
**Thursday, May 6, at 5:30pm**  
**Annual Meeting & Social Event**