

**Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2015 – 8:30-10:00 AM (EST)**

The September 25, 2015 meeting of the Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) was held in the Board Room of INOVA Federal Credit Union, 358 South Elkhart Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46516. John Affleck-Graves called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and it was noted there was a quorum present.

RDA Board Members Present:        John Affleck-Graves, University of Notre Dame  
   Regina Emberton, Michiana Partnership  
   Dallas Bergl, INOVA Federal Credit Union  
   John DeSalle, Hoosier Racing Tire Corp.  
   Pete McCown, Elkhart County Community Foundation

RDA Board Members Absent:        None

Others Present:                        Tim Sexton, University of Notre Dame  
   Stephen Studer, Krieg DeVault LLP  
   James Turnwald, Michiana Area Council of Governments  
   Paul Cafiero, Corporate Partnership for Economic Growth

**Report of Secretary**

James Turnwald confirmed that the required public notice was made for the meeting.

**Minutes of the August 18, 2015 Meeting**

There were no additions or corrections to the August 18, 2015 minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DALLAS BERGL AND  
SECONDED BY REGINA EMBERTON TO APPROVE  
THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2015. ALL IN FAVOR,  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

**Reports of Officers, Consultants and Staff**

A report from Chair Affleck-Graves was made to discuss the duties of the RDA, which refer to projects of regional importance, to communicate regularly with constituencies, to establish a Development Authority Fund.

- Affleck-Graves noted the importance of frequent communication with local members in each county. Bergl and McCown would report back to Elkhart County, DeSalle to Marshall County, and Affleck-Graves and Emberton to St. Joseph County. The board will work to develop a formalized communication strategy with all constituencies.

- Noted that a quorum was a majority of the board, or three of the five members, necessary to conduct businesses. Except in the case of hiring an executive director, where 2/3, or four of the five members would be required to take action.
- Requested that Secretary-Treasurer Bergl report on the financial matters.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance Committee:

- Bergl noted that the minutes and book keeping were being administered by MACOG.
- Bergl would work with Emberton to develop a draft 2016 budget for the RDA, including identification of funding opportunities, if needed. McCown asked if funding could be generated by a fee for project applications to cover the cost of administering the applications.
- MACOG confirmed that they were in the process of establishing a segregated bank account with a local financial institution to serve as the Development Authority Fund.

### **Old Business**

#### **Regional Cities Initiative:**

Emberton reported back on the successful IEDC visit to the Region on August 18<sup>th</sup> and shared the follow up letter sent by Victor Smith and Jim Schellinger. She confirmed the final RCNI Plan was submitted to the IEDC by August 31, 2015 as required.

Additional discussion continued regarding the presentation, themes, branding and delivery of the Innovate Indiana Regional Development Plan.

The group watched the film that had been developed by Big Idea Company to be used as part of the presentation and the members were very positive about the film and discussed a few additions and revisions to be made prior to finalizing.

The group discussed the external branding message for the region, to be used in securing a national brand and agreed to use South Bend-Elkhart: Smart Connected Communities.

#### **Strategic Planning:**

Board members discussed the RDA's responsibility beyond the Regional Cities Initiative and all expressed interest in proceeding to formalize a cohesive and collaborative Regional Organization Structure and to explore the RDA's role in the coordination of developing a regional strategic plan. There was consensus that the board has a natural mandate to discuss the process of moving forward regardless of the outcome of the Regional Cities Initiative. The board noted the foundation and research has been completed during the planning for Regional Cities and that at the next RDA board meeting, the group would discuss a more formalized process to use that information to create an overarching regional strategy. McCown noted the importance of defining the mission and the value proposition of our activity before proceeding with any further planning. The RDA board agreed that their role was as coordinator and convener, and it would be critical to engage the appropriate people within each county and city in the region to develop the plan. The board members also noted the need to determine if they would outsource the execution of activities, but noted the ability to engage an Executive Director was a possibility.

The timeline for the IEDC selection was reviewed:

- 10/06/15 RDA Presentation to the SRC
- 10/20/15 SRC to hold public meeting in Indy discussing the plans.
- November SRC will make recommendations to the IEDC Board of Directors
- 12/15/15 IEDC Board will announce the two regions that are selected on

**Future Meetings:**

The next RDA board meeting for 2015 will be scheduled in October or November. An Annual meeting will be scheduled for January 2016; then regular RDA meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every other month starting in February (2/11, 4/14, 6/9, 8/11, 10/13, 12/8). These will be held at 4:30 in the afternoon and the location will rotate around the cities in the region.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

John Affleck-Graves adjourned the meeting.