

LIFT Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: March 18, 2026

Location: Bismarck, ND

Committee Members in attendance: Al Anderson, Vern Dosch, Michael Jablon, Karna Loyland, Erik Barner, and Nate Martindale.

Staff in attendance: Shayden Akason, Courtney Heiser, Carla Valentine

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Meeting commenced at 10:00am.
- Attendance confirmed; quorum established.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from October 22, 2025, meeting approved. The motion was made by Karna Loyland and seconded by Al Anderson. Motion carried.

3. Executive Session

- Motion passed to enter executive session for Tactical Brands presentation and portfolio review. The motion was made by Nate Martindale, seconded by Al Anderson. Motion carried.

4. Presentation & Committee Discussion: Tactical Brands

- Request: \$100,000
- Discussion included product commercialization, IP ownership, supply chain, manufacturing (preference for US/Latin America, but offshoring required for cost competitiveness), regulatory considerations for global expansion, and ND employment impact.

5. Policy Guideline Updates

- Reviewed and discussed updates to LIFT guidelines:
 - Eligibility restrictions for applicants with prior state-related financial loss.
 - Prohibition on related party transactions.
 - Regulation B compliance.

6. Portfolio Review

- Updates on loan portfolio, charge-offs, extensions, and risk ratings.
- Discussion on economic impact modeling, annual reporting, and legislative expectations for ROI.
- Available Funds: Approximately \$14M for new commitments.

7. Exit Executive Session

- Motion made by Al Anderson, seconded by Nate Martindale. Motion carried.

8. Motions & Votes

- **Tactical Brands**

- Decision: \$100,000 recommended with conditions:
 - Proof of a full production run of approximately 10,000 smokers (\$500,000 investment) that is tested and ready for assembly and sale
 - Personal guarantee from owners, and
 - UCC filing on business assets

Motion to approve by Al Anderson, seconded by Nate Martindale. Motion carried.

Al Anderson	Yes
Erik Barner	Yes
Karna Loyland	No
Michael Jablon	Yes
Nate Martindale	Yes
Randy Schneider	Absent
Vern Dosch	Yes

- **LIFT Committee Guidelines Updates**

Motion to approve LIFT committee guidelines as recommended by staff made by Karna Loyland, seconded by Vern Dosch. Motion carried.

Al Anderson	Yes
Erik Barner	Yes
Karna Loyland	Yes
Michael Jablon	Yes
Nate Martindale	Yes
Randy Schneider	Absent
Vern Dosch	Yes

9. Next Steps & Adjournment

- LIFT applications to open March 24, 2026; next committee meeting planned for June 3.
- Meeting adjourned.