

Q3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
via TEAMS MEETING and onsite location
Rough Rider Center
2209 Wolves Den Parkway
Watford City ND
August 29, 2024
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Economic Development Foundation members present: Douglas Bolken, Bruce Gjovig, Cassidy Hjelmstad, Megan Langley, Spencer Marchand, Frank Matus, Vicki Monsen, John Nagel, Lindsey Narum, Anna Nelson, Kevin Miiller
Commerce staff present: Josh Teigen, Shawn Kessel, Sara Otte Coleman, Rich Garman, Maria Effertz, Katie Ralston Howe, Alison Widmer, Rikki Roerich, Sherri Frieze

WELCOME

Conducting the meeting for Chairperson Lyn James, was foundation member Megan Langley, who called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., welcoming the Economic Development Foundation members and guests. Roll call was conducted.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
MINUTES/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Motion: It was moved by Spencer Marchand, seconded by Doug Bolken, to approve the minutes of July 17, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion: It was moved by Bruce Gjovig, seconded by Spencer Marchand to approve the Financial Summary Report, as of August 25, 2024, for \$60,699.97. Motion carried.

LEADERSHIP TOP PRIORITIES

Deputy Commissioner Shawn Kessel and Division Leaders

Thirty-six priority items were discussed appropriately by each division leader that outlined their policy ideas and/or budget items for the 2025 legislative session.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT VOTING
Agriculture, Energy, Technology, Tourism

Megan Langely revisited the process needed to cast voting. Members submitted their votes to be tallied/ranked and reviewed upon by the Leadership Team. Subcommittee votes were collected from the top three priorities in each sector as listed.

AGRICULTURE

 **Chair Megan Langley**
 **Members Tom Campbell, Lindsey Narum**

1.) Infrastructure

- Incentivizing by tax break or tax credit for individuals to purchase or landowners to sell small farmsteads (non-production lands) that have been on the vacant property tax exemption role.
- Expand investment in rural water, for livestock wells and rural farmsteads.

2.) Specialty Crop Processing

- Increase the number of local processing facilities to reduce transportation costs.

3.) Local Foods

- Define “Local Food” in century code. (No definition currently exists)

- Standardize the rules and regulations across health units in ND for local food sales and purchases. (Schools, nursing homes, restaurants)
- Incentivizing by tax break or tax credit for grocery stores or convenience stores to purchase local foods.

ENERGY

✚ Chair Kevin Miiller

✚ Members Ron Day, Mike Seminary, Paul Steffes

1.) Nuclear Power

- Public outreach support
- PSAR (Preliminary Safety Analysis Report)
- Determine who will drive policy – ND Transmission Authority, Commerce, EERC, Legislature, Governor's Office
- Endorse ½ FTE under the Energy & Economic Coordination office within the Commerce Department

2.) Existing ND Businesses and the Expertise needed

- Single point of contact for businesses in trouble, rural communities, and smaller chambers
- Endorse 1 FTE under the DCS within the Commerce Department

3.) Energy Storage

- Next Generation energy storage solutions
- Entice investment for supporting green energy and existing coal plants.
- EERC Energy Storage Funding
- Creation of an Energy Storage Authority
- Endorse ½ FTE under the Energy & Coordination office within the Commerce Department

TECHNOLOGY

✚ John Nagel on behalf of Chair Anna Nelson

✚ Members Bruce Gjovig, Cassidy Hjelmstad, Frank Matus, John Nagel

1.) Support Data Center Infrastructure

- Funding mechanism to establish data library/libraries and incentivize private partners (NDSU Ag. data)

2.) Create Office of Autonomy

- Under the ND Department of Commerce

3.) Cybersecurity

- Develop and execute a multi-part educational campaign for business community and next steps.
- Implement the NIST standard 2.0 and the Broad Band Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD)

TOURISM

- ✚ Chair Spencer Marchand
 - ✚ Members Thomas Stromme, Douglas Bolken, Lyn James
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1.) Destination Development 2.0

- More funding with concrete match requirements.
 - BND PACE Program match requirements as a model

2.) Outfitters

- Development of additional outfitter equipment rental for visitors
- Create additional opportunities in different parts of the state, via legislative study.

3.) Enhance multi-use, year-round trails on public lands and the National grasslands.

- 2023 ND State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) indicates that in certain regions of the state, over 80% of respondents feel demand exceeds supply of current trail systems for both paved and unpaved multi-use trails.

NEXT STEPS

- The Commerce Leadership Team will review the Top 3 Priorities that were discussed at today's meeting.
- Executive Committee to be formed to help move legislative policy forward before the next meeting
- The Q4 meeting will be held in December

Motion: It was moved by Spencer Marchand and John Nagel to form an Executive Committee, consisting of the Chair or Chairs from the top subcommittee priorities, plus the Foundation Chair and Vice Chair to help draft legislative policy before the next quarterly meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:15 p.m.