

**Q3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MEETING  
WSI BOARD ROOM & VIA TEAMS CONNECTION  
1600 EAST CENTURY AVENUE  
BISMARCK ND  
AUGUST 7, 2025**

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**WELCOME MEMBERS**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Seminary at 2:00 p.m., welcoming the Economic Development Foundation members and guests in the room and online via the TEAMS connection.

**Economic Development Foundation members present:** Brandon Bochenski, Ron Day, Cassidy Hjelmstad, Megan Langley, Robbie Lauf, Spencer Marchand, Frank Matus, Kevin Müller John Nagel, Anna Nelson, Jaci Praska, Mike Seminary, Paul Steffes, Thomas Stromme.

**Commerce staff present:** Chris Schilken, Sara Otte Coleman, Rich Garman, Maria Effertz, Katie Ralston Howe, Alison Widmer, Corby Kemmer, Tammy Heick, Sherri Frieze

**MINUTES**

**Motion:** It was moved by Kevin Müller, seconded by Ron Day, to approve the minutes of May 21, 2025. No discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion:** It was moved by Ron Day, seconded by Anna Nelson, to approve the Financial Summary Report for \$58,995.93, as of July 31, 2025. No discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**WELCOME NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS**

**Commissioner Schilken**

Robbie Lauf and Jaci Praska were present at the meeting and were welcomed as new members.

**COMMERCE PLAN**

**Commissioner Schilken**

Commissioner Schilken talked about Governor Armstrong’s Department of Governmental Efficiencies (DOGE) plan. The Commerce Department is focusing on agency efficiencies, improvement to funding state programs, and reduction of duplication efforts across state agencies that will help with return on investment across the state.

**COMMERCE DIVISION UPDATES**

**Emailed to all members – Q & A**

Discussion ensued on various topics including government tariffs, tourism stats., workforce programs and economic development across the state. Commissioner Schilken mentioned that starting soon, the Foundation will receive a monthly report highlighting economic indicators and the community visits conducted through the Commerce Department.

**BOARD MEMBER AROUND THE ROOM UPDATES**

**All**

Topics of discussion included:

Tariff	Housing	Immigration policy
AI impact on jobs	Gas pipelines	Securing visa after graduation
Fiber telecon connectivity	Apprenticeships	Data centers in ND
Workforce needs	Possible dropping interest rates	Commerce site readiness

### **APPROVAL OF UPDATED BYLAWS**

#### **Mike Seminary**

Bylaws were reviewed by the Executive Committee and brought forth for member approval.

**Motion:** It was moved by Ron Day, seconded by Kevin Müller, to approve the updated Bylaws of the Economic Development Foundation as of August 7, 2025. No discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

### **OTHER/Q&A**

- Q4 Foundation meeting - Thursday, November 6 – Bismarck ND, WSI Board Room.
  - It was mentioned to inform the Foundation on Commerce related issues/topics that could prove beneficial for Foundation members to include their commentary.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 4:00 p.m.