CROSS OVER MEETING OF THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL and the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
TEAMS CALL/VIDEO MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TEAMS CALL – Members of the Workforce Development Council, Economic Development Foundation, and Commerce staff – roll call was not taken.

CROSSOVER MEETING WITH THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Recap and Working Next Steps
Michelle Kommer & Katie Ralston

Katie discussed three of the four focus areas that were discussed and presented during the morning meeting of the Workforce Development Council. She then presented the fourth focus area consecutively.

- **Career Academy/CTE Centers**
  Talked about the ten Career Academy/CTE Centers that cross the state from the Northwest to the Southeast, the opportunities/barriers for support for additional CTE centers, equipment/materials, better efficiencies of virtual/hybrid CTE centers and the need for legislative support to accelerate the process.

- **Removing Barriers**
  Background information to the F5 Project was discussed with the projections on the landscape for mass incarceration in ND, and barriers for those with criminal background and the solutions.

- **Growing Online Degree Capability**
  Various modes of delivery through the ND University System learning system; those being from face to face, online, to a hyflex and online delivery methods in 2020 are anticipated. Drivers of change, including the implications of COVID-19, workforce demand and campus receptivity were also discussed.

- **Short Term Skill Development through Innovation Programs**
  Katie discussed the approved $1 million CARES ACT funding that Commerce received during a Budget Section meeting on June 25th. Commerce will administer the ND Smart Restart Technical Skills Training Grant, which is designed to support accelerated, skills-based and hands-on workforce training programs for displaced workers seeking to develop the technical skills necessary to make a career change and remain gainfully employed in North Dakota.

Michelle finished the conversation with an overview of the next steps that would follow those recommendations:

1.) refinement with the Commerce team and subcommittees, 3.) follow up with the WDC Executive committee, and 4.) a revisit with the Workforce Development Council at their next meeting, regarding moving forward with the next working steps.

With no questions from the group, the crossover meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
The Economic Development Foundation Quarterly meeting would reconvene after the adjournment.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
TEAMS CALL/VIDEO MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Economic Development Foundation members present: Kevin Black, Kyle Blanchfield, Linda Butts, Tom Campbell, Bruce Gjovig, Kristin Hedger, Lyn James, Tommy Kenville, Megan Laudenschlager, Vicki Monson, Kari Ness, Pamela Schmidt, Mike Seminary, Paul Steffes, Bruce Thom, Eric Trueblood

Commerce staff present: Michelle Kommer, Shawn Kessel, James Leiman, Bonnie Malo, Sara Otte Coleman, Katie Ralston, Sherri Frieze,

Guess present: Ellen Huber

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Lyn James, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. welcoming the Economic Development Foundation members and guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES
Motion: It was moved by Tom Campbell, seconded by Mike Seminary to approve the July 15th agenda. Motion carried.

Motion: It was moved by Lyn James, seconded by Kyle Blanchfield to approve the April 23rd minutes with a correction made to the spelling of Lynn. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC UPDTE
James Leiman
James discussed the COVID-19 pandemic results since April 19, 2020, for industry recovery, and funding economic development within a shift paradigm. The ND Commerce department remains ahead of other states, restructuring itself in response for COVID, providing a much better approach for companies, Economic Development Associations, Community Development organizations, and providing unique and high-quality services to our demographic region.

COVID RESPONSE UPDATE
Michelle Kommer
Michelle gave discussed the tasks the Commerce Department staff has tackled since March. Many hours were spent channeling through 880 pages of the Cares ACT before it was passed into law and tireless work of build out of the ND SMART RESTART website; a one stop shop for businesses, employees, and employees.

Many special Business Briefings where held, discussing the funding for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), the Protection Program (PPP) loan, and financial support through the Bank of ND for businesses.
Working with the ND Department of Human Services, the Division of Community Services received funding for the Emergency Rent Bridge program, from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation for those impacted by layoffs and the economic slowdown to pay for their rent.

The Tourism/Marketing Division provided daily communication to businesses, visitors, providers, etc., on the availability of restrictions. The Main Street Initiative (MSI) group, in partnership with other agencies, issued statewide surveys in April and May to gain a better understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic was impacting communities and individuals across the state. With 11,300 received responses, it demonstrated that North Dakotans want to share their experiences. That input helped build the Economic Resiliency Grant program.

**ECONOMIC RESILIENCY GRANT (ERG)**

James Leiman

The Budget Section approved $69 million for the Commerce Department to administer the Economic Resiliency Grant (ERG), geared to enhance revenue in both the immediate and long-term future by growing consumer confidence.

The grant is being made available to private companies operating in North Dakota for costs associated with improvements to their businesses for the purpose of reducing the spread of infection, and instilling consumer confidence in the marketplace. The grant will be awarded at up to $50,000 per eligible business and up to $100,000 per eligible business with multiple locations.

The application process opens August 12th, with a deadline of August 28th. Awardees will be announced starting September 11th, and funds dispersed starting September 25th.

**MAIN STREET INITIATIVE (MSI)**

Business/Community Surveys

Shawn Kessel

Shawn provided the results from:

1.) Business Impact Survey – Round 1; issued March 30th - April 13th,
2.) Business Impact Survey – Round 2; issued May 15th - June 5th,
3.) Community Impact Survey – issued April 13th – April 20th, and

Shawn also gave highlights to eight webinars that were conducted from March 10th – July 1st. From the surveys, the Main Street Initiative Team is working on an action plan to address recommendations received from businesses to communities to economic development regions.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION**

Bonnie Malo

Bonnie discussed the move of the HOME Program within the Division of Community Services, to the ND Housing Finance Agency this upcoming legislative session, CARES ACT funding of $1.2 million received for the Community Development Block Grant, CARES ACT funding of $4.4 million for the Housing and Urban Development program; used for the Rent Bridge program through the Department of Human Services, and in addition to those funds, CARES ACT funding of $5.1 million funds for the Emergency Shelter Grant program.
In order to secure these funds, the Division of Community Services must write a plan, and all program funds will need to be expedited and obligated by September 30th, 2022.

TOURISM/MARKETING
Sara Otte Coleman
Sara discussed weekly travel spending; the improvement of, total lost visitor spending including lost tax revenue, border crossing metrics, hotel occupancy, impact on travel plans, travel perceptions, perceived safety of trip types, comfort level of traveling right now, ND Smart Restart Guidelines, and the CARE19 Diary and CARE19 Alert applications for mobile phones.

NEXT STEPS
Michelle Kommer
Michelle relayed next steps that will be used to discuss the refining of strategies, and the collected feedback from foundation members that will be used for the upcoming legislative session.

Initiatives to be discussed at the next foundation meeting include:

- Building capacity for rural economic development, by helping diversity and stabilize funding
- Supporting local planning efforts by educating local leaders, advocating statewide for the value of rural economic development efforts and how they could be different from urban economic development efforts.
- Invest in marketing ND as THE place for safe and worry-free travel and lifestyle.
- Continue to pursue business development in growth as well as in private equity attractions.
- Pursue and target workforce strategies, that include the efforts to remove barriers, develop rapid skill building programs and innovative platforms, and build on career, technical, and education programs.

With these strategies in place, the Commerce Department will become much tighter in the integration of the work within the divisions, no bold distinctions between them; making the best use of money and strategies.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: It was moved by Tom Campbell and seconded by Paul Steffes to adjourn the Economic Development Foundation meeting at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.