

Minutes of the

**ND Economic Development Foundation Meeting
Northrop Grumman 1 Grand Sky Boulevard, Emerado, ND**

June 20, 2019

Members Present: Lyn James, Erik Diederich, Tommy Kenville, Kristin Hedger, Maria Effertz Hanson, Bruce Gjovig, Paul Steffes, Linda Butts, Tom Campbell, Eric Trueblood, Pamela Schmidt, Kyle Blanchfield, Perry Miller

Members Present Via Phone: Bruce Thom, Mike Seminary, Jared Melville

Members Absent: Gene Veeder

Guests Present: Misty Porter – Belch, Peter Simonson, Sara Otte Coleman, Shawn Kessel, James Leiman, Keith Lund, Sherri Frieze

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman James called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairwoman James welcomed members and guests, with introductions made around the room and on the phone.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chairwoman James asked for a motion to approve the June 20, 2019 Agenda.

Motion: Eric Trueblood moved to approve the agenda. Tommy Kenville seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairwoman James asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2019 Quarterly Foundation meeting minutes.

Motion: Kari Ness moved to approve the minutes. Bruce Gjovig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairwoman James asked for a motion to approve the financial statements as presented.

Motion: Megan Laudenschlager moved to approve the financial statements. Tommy Kenville seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Commissioner Michelle Kommer

Commissioner Kommer gave an overview of the Commerce HB 1018 that resulted in \$8.6 million funding, with \$2.5 appropriated to momentum (discretionary) funding.

She discussed HB 1171 that requires the use of \$6 million total in state money, \$3 million in funding for loan/repayment for students in in demand occupations and \$3 million in funding for scholarships for students in in demand occupations.

The Workforce Development Council will update the current broad list of In Demand Occupations from Job Service ND by the end of June, creating a more solid, refined list of 20 – 30 in demand occupations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – James Leiman

James discussed the current state of the ND economy, with trends in value – added agriculture, value – added energy, unmanned systems, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, and new funding opportunities for existing programs.

WORKING LUNCH

Test Site Leverages, State Investment Presentation – Nick Flom

Nick gave an overview of the Northern Plains UAS Test Site partners, mission of, research and regulatory development, and the statewide network for Beyond Visual Line of Site.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION of COMMERCE ROADMAP – Commerce Team

Michelle talked about the work of the Senior Team, that started soon after the legislative session. The creation of the Commerce “roadmap” is to produce goals, within the divisions, to be turned into Commerce priorities. The value we create today, and tomorrow is different than what was created at the inception of Commerce. The Commerce roadmap will 1.) set strategic vision for economic viability, 2.) build capacities across all divisions within Commerce, and 3.) elevate the image of ND.

James Leiman – ED&F

James talked about laying the foundation for future generations, creating new markets, industries, and diversification. Building sustainable innovation in an emerging ecosystem, will strengthen the statewide economic development network.

Sara Otte Coleman - Tourism

Sara spoke of growing awareness of ND with the spreading ND’s message; giving more allowance for an improved understanding of the impact tourism has on the state’s economy. Also, with an increased brand unification, it will raise those marketing efforts.

Shawn Kessel – Main Street Initiative (MSI)

Shawn spoke of resources and best practices that Commerce will assist communities with in their plans at the upcoming MSI summit October 29th, 30th & 31st this year in Bismarck. This year the summit will create a transition from awareness to action for communities.

