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.
Shawn Kessel on behalf of Bonnie Malo – Community Services
Shawn spoke on the need to help communities with affordable housing, help those within the community to reach self-sufficiency and help develop community business plans to optimize federal development funds.

Michelle Kommer – Workforce
Currently, the Workforce Development Council is working hard to define ND’s priorities, along with the emphasis to use private sector partnership. Michelle highlighted on HB 1171, Skilled Workforce Programs; HB 1040, Manufacturing Tax Credit; and SB 2306, Military Occupational Licensure Reciprocity.

Members were divided into four groups to continue discussion of the role of the foundation member. Answering the questions on how they can create value, what are the deliverables of the foundation and what may be missing.

Groups returned to their seats after 15 minutes of discussion and reported:

- Community plan identifications and successful planning to influence policy.
- Better process of recruiting more people to ND.
- Securing large companies to support small companies grow.
- Creating more awareness and how to build on those experiences.

More attention will be given to this topic at a future meeting in a more refined format.

RESOLUTION For Jerad Melville
Chairwoman James asked for a motion to thank Jared Melville for his services to the foundation, in his role as student representative.

Motion: Pamela Schmidt moved to approve the resolution. Kristin Hedger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FUTURE MEETING
The next meeting date has not been set, tentatively to be held in Bismarck.

ADJOURNMENT:
Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 3:30 p.m.