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**Winona County Economic Development Authority**

**Thursday, July 27, 2023 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Location: County Boardroom**

**Members Attending:** Commissioners Greg Olson and Dwayne Voegeli, Duane Klein, Jim Vrchota, Mike Kennedy, Jason Strangstalien, Daniel Wilson

**Members Absent:** Amber Hamernik, James Doerr, Ex-Officio Linda Soderstrom, and Ex-Officio member Scott Sherman

**Also attending:** Lew Overhaug, Planning & Environmental Services Planner; Assistant County Attorney Paul Ellison, and Dusty Liston, CEDA Economic Development Specialist for Winona County

**Regular Meeting**

**1. Call to Order**

President Duane Klein called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Jim Vrchota and seconded by Duane Voegeli, the EDA voted to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes – All.

**3. Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2023**

On motion by Jim Vrchota and seconded by Duane Voegeli, the EDA voted to approve the minutes. Vote: Yes – All.

**4. Financial Reports**

**A. January – June 2023:** No discussion was made.

**5. Loan Updates**

**A. Current Loan Status:** Lew Overhaug informed the EDA that Bluff Country Coop, as well as Metz Farms were delinquent on their RLF payments in April of 2023. Bluff Country had a turnover in employment which caused their missed payment. Bluff Country has since paid their loan and is up to date on their payments. They set up an automatic payment to the County. Metz continues to be delinquent on their account. Dusty tried reaching out to them a couple of times, but was unsuccessful in obtaining a response from them. Metz is now overdue with their payment by 3 months. Dusty will draft an official letter to them for the County requesting payment and their plans to repay the loan. Dusty will send this in the mail. The EDA will continue to send

47 letters until a payment or response is made by Metz Family Farm.  
48

49 **6. New Business**

50 **A. Farmers' Market Food Hub** – presentation by Dusty Liston: Dusty presented a  
51 power point to the EDA members about a potential Winona County Food Hub. Dan  
52 Wilson and Duane Voegeli also provided information on what a Food Hub in  
53 Winona County could look like. After the power point presentation was complete,  
54 the members of the EDA discussed next steps to this potential project as all  
55 members of the EDA were on board with moving forward at this time. The next  
56 steps will be a feasibility study conducted by Wilder Research and an ad-hoc food  
57 hub committee being formed to further the research on a potential food hub  
58 project.

59  
60 On motion by Jim Vrchota and seconded by Duane Voegeli, the EDA voted to  
61 approve a feasibility study and an ad-hoc food hub committee. Vote: Yes – All.  
62

63 **B. A new RLF application may be forthcoming:** The applicant's name will be left  
64 unsaid at this time until an application is officially received.  
65

66 **7. Old Business:** Lew Overhaug gave the EDA members an update on the Winona County  
67 Housing Study. Lew mentioned that the EDA members received an email requesting  
68 more people take the housing preference survey as HKGi reopened the link to the study  
69 due to lack of participation in the survey. As of 7/27/23 only 67 community members  
70 throughout the county took the survey. The EDA discussed ways to promote the survey  
71 to more people. The EDA directed Dusty to send the survey link out to local real-estate  
72 agents to get a better turn out.  
73

74 **8. Member Reports:**

75  
76 **A.** Jim Vrchota reminded the EDA members that Family Night on the farm will take place  
77 on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Nelson Organic Farm outside of Altura, MN.  
78

79 **B.** Duane Voegeli informed the EDA members that he and Greg Olson heard a  
80 presentation on funding from the state of MN on housing development in the amount  
81 of \$39 million.  
82

83 **9. Director/Economic Development and Staff Reports:** No discussion or reports were  
84 brought forward.  
85

86 **10. Proposed next meeting date: Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (in lieu of October 26,**  
87 **2023):** Due to conflicting schedules between EDA members, it was discussed to change  
88 the meeting to Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (in lieu of October 26, 2023). This  
89 meeting will discuss the Housing Study Final Report – Draft.

90

91 **11. Adjournment**

92 On motion by Greg Olson seconded by Mike Kennedy, the EDA voted to adjourn at 5:42  
93 p.m. Vote: Yes – All.

94

95 Respectfully Submitted by:  
96 Dusty Liston, Economic Development Specialist

97

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99

100 Signed by:

101   
EDA President/Vice President

  
Date