Minutes SeVEDS Board Meeting  
October 18th, 2012 - 2PM  
Hannah Cosman Room Brattleboro

In attendance: Jenna Pugliese (by phone), Drew Richards, Jeff Lewis, Lisa Sullivan, Barb Sondag, Colby Dix, Bill Colvin, Martin Langeveld, Dave Alstadt, Susan McMahon, Patrick Moreland, Laura Sibilia

Lisa called the meeting to order at 2:05

**David made a motion to accept the minutes from 9/6, seconded by Colby Vote: Unanimous**

**Colby made a motion to approve the financials for month end 9/12, seconded by David Vote: Unanimous**

Old Business

* 1. Annual Meeting review and comments: event was excellent one critique was that it was a packed agenda, meeting and the after reception went well, YP event with the Speaker and that people were excited to be able to meet with him, board needs to be cognizant of remarks from Secretary Miller regarding disaggregating health care from employment as helpful to large businesses, and the Speakers comments stressing education
  2. SeVEDS AUDIT by State of Vermont – Laura noted the auditor had come back for clarification on the first part of the audit and that we had not seen the second or third parts of the audit yet
  3. EDA – update – We are hearing it will be any day now on approval of the grant, Laura reminded the board that one element of the EDA Disaster Recovery grant is development of a Southern Vermont Marketing Network for both employers and tourism entities – the purpose being to network and better leverage marketing efforts for recruitment of both employees and visitors
  4. BF Board Member – Jeff told the board he is having discussions within Sonnax for a new board person. He apologized for how long it is taking
  5. CDBG –DR Updates - Jeff more than 8 million dollars in unmet need has been identified – BDCC has fronted funds for both grant writer and assistant
  6. Workforce Committee:
     1. WF hire – Jeff told the board he is looking for more money to make the job full time and is having many discussion with a number of interesting candidates – he apologized for how long it is taking but thinks the payout will be better
     2. Colleges – Jeff talked about Mondays visit by UVM President – first visit in many years by sitting president, encouraged board members to bring their friends and neighbors to the meeting. At the BDCC annual meeting Tim Donavan, Chancellor of the Vermont Colleges, will be the featured speaker. Jeff has also arranged an offline special event for a number of the College presidents. Jeff said the next step will be starting to involve the SeVEDS board in the discussions.
  7. Development Committee: Business Accelerator Proposal sent to State – Jeff noted that the business accelerator proposal was sent to the Lawrence Miller. Martin noted that the jobs projections were conservative.

1. New Business
   1. CEDS Review Committee Discussion and Recommendation: Patrick went over the CEDS RFP review committee work. Lisa, Patrick, Jenna, Tim and Laura served on the committee – there were 9 proposals – the committee chose the top 3 and then did 2 reference checks on each. The committee met again and asked a series of questions via phone conference to each of the three finalists. Then the committee, based on the references and phone interviews voted again. Based on the vote the committee’s recommendation was ViTAL Economies.

Members of the board had questions based on past experiences with ViTAL Economies. Lisa said that the committee was aware of the concerns, and so, prior to making it’s recommendation, contacted Frank Knott from ViTAL Economies and received assurances that he specifically would be at the four public meetings.

There was discussion from all board members regarding honoring committee work, how close the next candidate was, whether or not the board should consider the two candidates tied and vote again, the difference in maturity of the SeVEDS organization now and two years ago, VE’s development of CEDS best practices white paper and EDA and NADO request.   
  
**Colby made a motion to accept the review committees recommendation and for BDCC to negotiate and sign contract with recommended consultant firm – 2nd by Barb**

**Discussion comments:**

* **This was essentially a tie, not sure why we wouldn’t go with the one that doesn’t have any knocks**
* **If the board wants to go against the recommendation of the committee then the board will need more information before taking action**
* **Mullin is 2 members and VE has team**
* **Are we going to get the cluster analysis we need?**
* **If you want an excellent public process go with Mullin, if you want a lot of wonky data then go with VE**

**Vote: 7-3 in favor of motion**

Patrick asked that Jeff negotiate contract with Frank Knott and share boards sentiment

* 1. BF/Rock CDBG funding request update – Laura has met with the Rockingham board and made a request for a 15K contribution from their CDBG program funds for FY 13. At their request, she will be going back in two weeks to follow up.
  2. Municipal Fundraising – Laura has sent requests to all towns to appear on their agendas to request financial support
  3. Marlboro College Board Training and YP
  4. Discussion about meeting dates and times and ensuring quorums at meetings. Laura will send out a meeting planner to see what day of the week and times work best for board members.

1. Next Meeting
   1. November 15th