

**MENOMINEE COUNTY ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting

February 11, 2025

**\*\*APPROVED\*\***

The Menominee County Economic Development Committee met on February 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM at the Menominee County Courthouse in Menominee, Michigan.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Westrich at 4:00 PM.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Westrich, Aubert, Gromala, Carviou, & Hagan.

Absent: Parrett.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion made by Gromala, seconded by Aubert to approve the agenda. Vote taken.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. Approval of Previous Minutes (December 17, 2024)**

Motion made by Aubert, seconded by Carviou to approve the previous meeting minutes from December 17, 2024. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. Public Comment**

None

**VII. Business**

*A. Menominee Business Development Corporation*

Administrator Carviou introduced Lexi Hagan as the new Executive Director of the Menominee Business Development Corporation (MBDC). Lexi started her new position on February 3, 2025 – about a week. Lexi provided an update on a few things that she has

already been working on, which includes establishing a domain to setup her email, ordering business cards, creating a new logo for the MBDC, visiting some local businesses and introducing herself, reached out to the M&M Chamber of Commerce, reached out to the local paper and radio, and has already attended or scheduled several training opportunities. Lexi said right now she is working on contacting businesses in Menominee County to introduce herself and to setup up meetings to tour local businesses, as well as networking with other regional and state economic development agencies.

### *B. Menominee/Marinette Regional Guide*

Cindy Boyle from Boyle Desing Group provided a brief presentation and overview as they start work on the 2025/2026 Menominee/Marinette Regional Guide. Cindy asked for feedback, new ideas, what the Committee liked/disliked from last year, and changes they would like to see for this coming year.

The Committee discussed needing to update the MBDC information to include Lexi Hagan's contact information, adding a QR code that links to the County's park website (online reservation system), asking Wendricks Truss to be the featured business this year on the County's ad, changing the farm picture to something that involves recreational/guide fishing, if the ad could be edited to remove some of the words/make it less wordy, highlight more businesses and trails on the county map, and change the color scheme of the county map.

Administrator Carviou also mentioned making sure that the County Fair, Music in the Park, Halloween Weekend, and Airport Days events were included somewhere. Cindy stated they will make sure those events get in the publication and that we can add events to the online calendar at any time.

The Committee also discussed ordering extra guides and placards for the County to distribute at the parks and at trade shows. Cindy will send over pricing for additional guides and the placards. She will also see if printing extra copies of just the Menominee County centerfold is an option.

Cindy will also attend the County Board meeting tonight to discuss the Regional Guide and to solicit any feedback and ideas.

### *C. Menominee County Motorized Trail System*

Commissioner Westrich stated the meeting with Ken Meshigaud, Hannahville Tribal Chairman, has been rescheduled for tomorrow – February 12. She is also trying to setup a meeting with a representative from the DNR who is responsible for the trail system in the U.P.

#### *D. Other Business*

Administrator Carviou gave an update on the K-Mart Brownfield Project – it was in the paper that Veridea has pulled out of the project and decided to sell the property. Veridea has not contacted the County or the Brownfield Authority, but this is the information that Administrator received from the City of Menominee also. Administrator Carviou spoke to our brownfield consultant and there are two separate things to consider: the brownfield plan and the development agreement.

Brownfield Plan – now that the site is designated a brownfield and state tax capture is approved, it is in our best interest to leave the brownfield plan active in the event that another developer is interested in developing the site. If we close the brownfield plan, we may not be able to qualify the site again as a brownfield and we more than likely wouldn't be able to get the state tax capture approved again. A new developer would need to negotiate and receive approval for a new development agreement to be eligible for any of the brownfield incentives.

Development Agreement – the development agreement was between the Brownfield Authority and Veridea. The development plan is what lays out the terms for receiving reimbursements for eligible brownfield activities. The Brownfield Authority would need to approve the transfer of the development agreement to another developer – approval that cannot be unreasonably withheld. However, the next developer would need a project substantially similar to the original project proposed by Veridea; otherwise, the Brownfield Authority would have just cause to not transfer the development agreement. The Brownfield Authority could enter into a new development agreement with a different developer for a completely different project – at the discretion of the Brownfield Authority.

#### **VIII. Public Comment**

None

#### **IX. Commissioner Comment**

None

#### **X. Adjournment**

Motion made by Aubert, seconded by Westrich to adjourn. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*MEETING ADJOURNED*