

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2024

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:08 a.m., Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the NWAEDD Plaza, 818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas.

The following entities of government were represented:

Baxter County

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home (Video)

Benton County

Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville (Video)

Boone County

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County
Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison
Bill Witty, Harrison

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County
Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville
Mayor Butch Berry, Eureka Springs

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County (Video)
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville (Video)
Brandi Holt, Huntsville (Video)

Marion County

Jason Stumph, Marion County
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville
Layton Lee, Yellville (Video)

Newton County

Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County
Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Minutes of Meeting

January 17, 2024

Page -2-

Washington County

Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County (Video)

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Chung Tan proxy for Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Fayetteville (Video)

Steve Clark, Fayetteville (Video)

Board Members absent were:

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County

Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell

Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County

Mayor Michael Thomas, Jasper

Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Guests present were:

Janell Robertson, Carroll County Community Foundation

Kimberly Jones, Twin Lakes Community Foundation

Lesley Roberts, Arkansas Community Foundation (Video)

Craig Campbell, BCEDC

Jim Kuchenbecker, Madison County

Toliver Myers, Field Representative for Boozman

Brittany Parker, Field Representative for Senator Cotton

Mayor John Flynn, Bella Vista (Video)

Emily C. Yates, AEDC (Video)

Wilson Marseilles, Harrison Chamber of Commerce

Arthur Hulbert, Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce (Video)

Jackie Crabtree, Arkansas Municipal League (Video)

Spree Ragland, Arvest

Joe Willis, NWAEDD

Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD

Landon Koch, NWAEDD

Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD

Shana King, NWAEDD

Karen Henry, NWAEDD

April Turner, NWAEDD (Video)

Patty Methvin, NWAEDD

Libby Robinson, NWAEDD

Katie Causey, NWAEDD

Tina Cole, NWAEDD

Courtney Roberts, NWAEDD

Jack Chisum, NWAEDD

Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD (Video)

Kindall Brewer (Video)

Judy Diffie (Video)

Janine Swirsky (Video)

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the October 18, 2023, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mayor Butch Berry and seconded by Judge Jason Stumph.

Chairman Sprouse introduced Craig Campbell with the Boone County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) who gave a brief history of the BCEDC.

Chairman Sprouse introduced the guest speakers, Lesley Roberts, Arkansas Community Foundation (ARCF) Regional Development Director; Kimberly Jones, Executive Director of Twin Lakes Community Foundation; and Janell Robertson, Executive Director of Carroll County Community Foundation. The Arkansas Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization working statewide to empower people to make smart giving decisions to build stronger Arkansas Communities.

Chairman Sprouse provided an Executive Committee Report stating that the executive committee of the NWAEDD Board of Directors met on January 17, 2024. The committee reviewed the 2024 NWAEDD Budget. The committee approved the budget and moved to present it to the Board of Directors for approval. The Committee also voted to award Director Willis a raise of 3% and a performance bonus.

The next item of business on the agenda was the review of the NWAEDD 2024 Budget. A motion to approve the 2024 NWAEDD Budget was made by Mr. Neal Gibson and seconded by Mr. Bill Witty and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business on the agenda was the review of the 2024 Locality Contributions Report. Director Willis discussed the report and offered to answer any questions.

Next was the review and approval of the 2024-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). After a brief discussion on the CEDS was given by Deputy Director Jeremy Ragland. A motion was made by Mr. Woodie Methvin to approve the CEDS and seconded by Mayor Shawn Lane. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Willis discussed the upcoming eclipse in 82 days. He noted the excitement about the 2024 IRT in Madison and Newton County (sites on the Jasper School Campus and Kingston School Campus). He also discussed a Strategic Economic Assessment EDA Project going on in Huntsville, as well as a Rural Business Development Grant in Harrison and Mountain Home with downtown strategies. The ADWS appeals are awaiting an answer from DOL. Tina Cole has been working on the Washington County Hazardous Mitigation Plan, and it is at FEMA pending approval. He discussed the Intermediary Relending Program and the efforts to roll that out in a successful way.

Chairman Sprouse thanked everyone for attending and Joe and staff for all their great work.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m. on a motion by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Mr. Witty. The motion carried unanimously.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

APRIL 17, 2024

Vice Chairman Shawn Lane called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:14 a.m., Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County
Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge (Video)

Boone County

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County
Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison
Bill Witty, Harrison

Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville
Mayor Butch Berry, Eureka Springs (Video)

Madison County

Ms. Latasha Born (proxy for Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County)
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville
Brandi Holt, Huntsville (Video)

Marion County

Judge Jason Stumph, Marion County
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville
Layton Lee, Yellville (Video)

Newton County

Mayor Michael Thomas, Jasper

Minutes of Meeting

April 17, 2024

Page -2-

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County

Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Fayetteville (Video)

Board Members absent were:

Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell

Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville

Judge David Writer, Carroll County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County

Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Guests present were:

Mike Rogers, Governor's Office

Toliver Myers, Field Representative for Boozman

Brittany Parker, Field Representative for Cotton

Emily C. Yates, AEDC

Steve Shields, Carty & Company

Arthur Hulbert, Siloam Springs Chamber

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis

Jeremy Ragland

Landon Koch

Chelsey Weaver

Courtney Roberts

Shana King

Karen Henry

April Turner

Patty Methvin

Libby Robinson

Tina Cole

Michelle Ryan

Katie Causey

David Bell

James Moss

Jack Chisum

Cynthia Williams

Jeffery Bruce

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the January 17, 2024, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Judge Jason Stumph.

Vice Chairman Lane introduced the guest speaker, Mike Rogers, the Chief Workforce Officer for Arkansas. He chairs the governor's workforce cabinet, which consists of the departments of commerce, corrections, education, human services, labor and licensing, transformation and shared services, and veteran affairs.

Vice Chairman Lane provided an Executive Committee Report stating that the executive committee of the NWAEDD Board of Directors met on April 17, 2024. The committee reviewed and approved to present to the full board for approval the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Intermediary Relending Program (IRP), and Equal Opportunity Policy (EOP). The committee also reviewed the NWAEDD Employee Handbook, but took no action, awaiting additional comments from the district's attorney.

A review of the district financial report for February 29, 2024, was made. Director Joe Willis provided a summary of the report and answered questions. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mr. Bill Witty and seconded by Judge Barry Moehring and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business on the agenda was the review of the 2024 Locality Contributions Report. Director Willis discussed the report and offered to answer any questions.

Deputy Director Jeremy Ragland provided an update on a variety of happenings in the Community Development Department. He informed the board members that NWAEDD currently is administering \$10 million in Economic Development District grants, with the latest award being \$1.6 million for Searcy County to renovate the Flint Rock Shirt Factory. He went on to discuss the recent CDBG applications that were submitted for Boone County (Grandma's House) and Farmington (Senior Center), along with the upcoming Denton Ferry Road Bridge dedication ceremony. He closed by informing members that the park grants from the State of Arkansas would be due the last Friday in August and he encouraged them to contact NWAEDD to apply.

Next was approval of the Resolution No. 3094 – United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). After a brief discussion on the IRP program given by Director Willis, a motion was made by Judge Moehring to approve the resolution authorizing the district to proceed with the application to USDA. It was seconded by Judge Stumph, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business on the agenda was the approval of the Equal Opportunity Policy (EOP). Director Willis provided a brief discussion on the EOP policy and answered questions. A motion to approve the EOP as presented was made by Mayor McKinney and seconded by Mayor Michael Thomas and the motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes of Meeting

April 17, 2024

Page -4-

The next item was the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Willis discussed the ADWS appeals, which are coming to a level of closure. The 2024 IRT in Madison and Newton County was mentioned and (sites on the Jasper School Campus and Kingston School Campus) will be held July 16-25, 2024. Discussion regarding EDA Reauthorization was had. Congress has not reauthorized the agency in 20 years. Finally, Director Willis updated the board on NATS and the challenges with ARDOT reimbursements.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. on a motion by Judge Moehring and seconded by Mayor McKinney. The motion carried unanimously.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

JULY 17, 2024

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 10:47 a.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County
Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville (Video)
Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge (Video)

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison
Bill Witty, Boone County

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County
Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville
Mayor Butch Berry, Eureka Springs

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County

Marion County

Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville

Newton County

Mayor Mike Thomas (Video)
Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall
Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Minutes of Meeting

July 17, 2024

Page -2-

Washington County

Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Fayetteville (Video)

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Board Members absent were:

Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home

Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County

Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville

Brandi Holt, Huntsville

Jason Stumph, Marion County

Layton Lee, Yellville

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County

Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Guests present were:

Mayor Gary Blackburn, Garfield

Mayor Eric Jaeger, Leslie

Mayor Cindy St. Clair, Pyatt

Stetson Painter, State Representative

Bryan King, State Senator

Ron McNair, State Representative

Toliver Myers, Field Representative for Boozman

Randy Zook, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

Latasha Born, Madison County Judge Assistant

Lieutenant Colonel Kristin Porter, U.S. Army Reserve

Scott Miller, Anstaff Bank

Johnny James, USDA-RD

Britni Rexwinkle, USDA-RD

Jennifer Barnard, USDA-RD

Matt Hudson, USDA-RD

Neal Hodges, USDA-RD

John Evans, Landmark PLC

Ashley Farrar, Landmark PLC (Video)

Jackie Crabtree, Arkansas Municipal League

Mary Jaeger, Leslie

Loretta Knieff, Harrison Daily Times

Jean Noble, AEDC

Taff Grice, Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Richard "Toby" Atkinson, Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Lindsey Taylor (Video)

Minutes of Meeting

July 17, 2024

Page -3-

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis
Jeremy Ragland
Libby Robinson
Tina Cole
Chelsey Weaver
Courtney Roberts
Landon Koch
David Bell
Karen Henry
Michelle Ryan
Katie Causey
Patty Methvin
Shana King
Jack Chisum
Roxanna Bray
Larry Simmons
James Moss
Melba Miller
Rose Sparrow
Nadine Sewak

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the April 17, 2024, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mr. Neal Gibson and seconded by Mayor Kevin Elliott.

Next was Neal Hodges, Jennifer Barnard, and Britni Rexwinkle from USDA-Rural Development. They spoke on USDA-RD programs – Community Facilities Program, Single Family Housing Loan and Grant Programs.

Chairman Sprouse provided an Executive Committee Report stating that the executive committee of the NWAEDD Board of Directors met on July 17, 2024. The committee reviewed and approved to present to the full board for approval the NWAEDD May 31, 2024 Financial Statements, NWAEDD Employee Handbook, Resolution 3095 – Certificate of Corporation Resolution Notice of Appointment of Trustee – 401K Plan Transfer, and the election of officers.

Chairman Sprouse provided an Audit Committee Report stating that the audit committee of the NWAEDD Board of Directors met on July 9, 2024. The committee reviewed and approved to present to the full board for approval the 2023 NWAEDD Financial Audit. Mr. John Evans, Landmark PLC, gave a brief summary of the audit. A motion to approve the audit as presented was made by Mayor Butch Berry and seconded by Mr. Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Next item of business was election of 2024 Officers. Judge Moehring made a motion to approve the slate of current officers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Woodie Methvin, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of Meeting

July 17, 2024

Page -4-

A review of the district financial report for May 31, 2024, was made. Director Joe Willis provided a summary of the report and answered questions. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Mayor Shawn Lane and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of the NWAEDD Employee Handbook. A motion to approve the handbook as presented was made by Mr. Bill Witty and seconded by Mr. Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was approval of Resolution No. 3095 – Certificate of Corporation Resolution Notice of Appointment of Trustee – 401K Plan Transfer. After a brief discussion on the resolution given by Director Willis, a motion was made by Mayor Berry to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Witty, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sprouse introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Randy Zook, President/CEO, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas. Mr. Zook's presentation was about the chamber's 2024 Arkansas Progress and Outlook Tour.

The next item was the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Willis introduced Lieutenant Colonel Kristine Porter and Tina Cole to provide a brief description of the IRT program taking place in Newton and Madison Counties at the Jasper and Kingston campuses until July 25, 2024. Director Willis discussed the 2024 Tornado Damage NEG through the Department of Labor. Director Willis also informed the board members that the district has the new copy of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) manual, if anyone wants to look at it or we can send them copies of the changes that the highway department will be doing in their area.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on a motion by Mayor Berry and seconded by Mr. Methvin. The motion carried unanimously.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 2024

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 10:43 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home (Video)

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County (Video)
Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville (Video)

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison
Bill Witty, Boone County

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County
Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville
Mayor Butch Berry, Eureka Springs

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville
Brandi Holt, Huntsville

Marion County

Jason Stumph, Marion County
Layton Lee, Yellville (Video)

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County
Mayor Mike Thomas, Jasper
Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County

Minutes of Meeting

October 16, 2024

Page -2-

Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Fayetteville (Video)

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Board Members absent were:

Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County

Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville

Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Guests present were:

Bryan King, State Senator

Gracie Rains, 75Strong (Video)

Toliver Myers, Field Representative for Boozman

Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Crawford

Gene Higginbothan, Field Representative for Crawford

Brittany Parker, Field Representative for Cotton

Latasha Born, Madison County Judge Assistant

Savannah Rosner, Northark

Mike Nabors, Harrison Chamber of Commerce

Tom Ginn, AEDC

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis

Jeremy Ragland

Libby Robinson

Tina Cole

Chelsey Weaver

Courtney Roberts

Karen Henry

April Turner

Chris Kellem

Michelle Ryan

Katie Causey

Kindall Brewer

Amanda Simon

Shana King

Jack Chisum

Greg LaBonte

James Moss

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the July 17, 2024, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mayor Butch Berry and seconded by Judge Larry Garrett.

The Honorable Bryan King, Arkansas State Senator, District 28, spoke and emphasized the importance of effective financial management, stating that the budget drives everything and impacts almost everything. He also addressed local concerns, environmental issues, windmills, crypto mines, education, the economy and power dynamics, Arkansas' crime issue and revenue.

Chairman Sprouse provided an Executive Committee Report stating that the executive committee of the NWAEDD Board of Directors met on October 16, 2024. The committee reviewed and approved to present to the full board for approval the NWAEDD August 31, 2024, Financial Statements and an Amendment to the NWAEDD Employee Handbook,

Next was Gracie Rains, Executive Director, Conductor, who discussed the statewide initiative, 75Strong, which focuses on entrepreneurship and small business development. She highlighted the importance of small businesses in the state's economy, particularly in rural areas, and the need to increase their impact. Ms. Rains proposed building entrepreneurial ecosystems across the state to facilitate business growth and engagement. She outlined the 75Strong program, a two-year initiative aimed at recruiting program individuals to participate in a cohort, which consists of three parts: leadership development, ecosystem development, and entrepreneur development. The program is open to chamber leaders, economic developers, community developers, municipal leaders, higher education representatives, and others. She encouraged attendees to help spread the word about the program to communities that could benefit from it. She shared information about the 75Strong Arkansas program and encouraged individuals from the region to apply.

A review of the district financial report for August 31, 2024, was made. Director Joe Willis provided a summary of the report and answered questions. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Judge Garrett and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of the amendment to the NWAEDD Employee Handbook. A motion to approve the amendment as presented was made by Mayor Berry and seconded by Judge Warren Campbell and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Willis gave an Ozark Wellness Summary IRT overview. Director Willis discussed the Finance Director change, 401k plan transfer completion, audit procurement, IRP update, and ATA Conference. He also provided an EDA grant update – Marble Falls Plans approved, CRMI, Fayetteville Industrial Park and Dixieland Road closing out, Kendrick Avenue – January 2025.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Mayor McKinney and seconded by Mr. Gibson. The motion carried unanimously.