

**BURK'S FALLS AND AREA
ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(ACED)**

**MINUTES
July 15, 2019**

The meeting was held at the Strong Municipal Office on July 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Tim Brunton, Township of Magnetawan
Barb Belrose, Village of Sundridge
Ron Begin, FedNor
Melanie Alkins, MENDM
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Kelly Elik, Township of Strong
Willy Hollett, AHCC Representative
Tim Bryson, Township of Joly
Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour
Lewis Hodgson, Village of Burk's Falls
Brenda Scott, Village of South River
Penny Brandt, Township of Ryerson
Peter McIsaac, Municipality of Powassan

Regrets: Celia Finley, Township of Ryerson

Staff: Nicky Kunkel, Village of Burk's Falls
John Theriault, Township of Armour
Dave Gray, Economic Development Officer
Nicole Fraser, Municipality of Magnetawan
Nancy Fields, Township of Ryerson
Kerstin Vroom, Municipality of Magnetawan

Guests: Mike Reise, Agilis Networks
Darcy Wallingford, Northern Lights Telecommunications Services

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes

That the minutes of Monday June 17, 2019 meeting were adopted as circulated.

CEDO Report and Discussion

Dave Gray presented his monthly report which included an update on his core activities over the last month.

CEDO Report and Discussion cont'd

Following the hiring process, a CMO has been hired and will be starting on July 24th, 2019. The Board reviewed the CMO work plan, the DMS Communications Plan and its appendix and the DMS press release.

The work on the Utilities Extension Project is ongoing. We are still collecting information to be forwarded to the utilities companies.

The CEDO reviewed the work being done by AHCC to recruit physicians. A draft plan was discussed by AHCC at their meeting of July 12th, 2019.

The CEDO discussed with the Board the possibility of holding an Almaguin Harvest Spin Cycling Event in 2020. The event was described and what funding is available for this event. The Township of Armour is willing to be the lead for the funding. If the funding is approved, the Board was in favour of going forward with this event.

An update was given on what Blue Sky is doing to enhance broadband in the North. Municipalities are being asked to be proactive with this endeavor by testing the internet speed on Blue Sky's website. A draft resolution supporting Blue Sky was presented to be discussed by Councils in Almaguin.

The CEDO advised the Board that the Annual Almaguin Highlands Economic development Gala will be held on October 3rd, 2019. A keynote speaker, Terry O'Reilly, has been confirmed. The Board reviewed the budget for this event.

ACED has been approached by the iION iRAPID Grant Program to sit on a grant review committee.

The Board received a request from the Near North Enviro Education Centre for financial support for the Almaguin Local Food Fair. The Board passed a resolution approving a donation. This event will need to be well marketed and reach the right audience.

FedNor/MENDM

An update was given on the work FedNor and MENDM are doing to help economic development in the region. We are still waiting on a decision on the CIINO grant.

Position Descriptions

The Board reviewed the job descriptions for the Director of Economic development and the Economic development Officer. A resolution was passed to approve the job descriptions.

Other Business

Some member municipalities received a letter requesting that the Province change Highway 11 into Highway 411. The change would mean more restrictions on what kind of traffic could use the highway. The consensus was that this would not be good for our region. The letter will be circulated to all member municipalities and to the Board. Each municipality should pass a resolution either in support or against the change. The CEDO will send a letter to the Province against this change.

Resolutions

1. 2019-009 - Moved by Lewin Hodgson, Seconded by Margaret Ann MacPhail;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of June 17th, 2019 as circulated.
2. 2019-010 - Moved by Tim Bryson, Seconded by Willy Hollett;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board agree to partner with the Near North Enviro Education Centre to deliver the Almaguin Local Food Fair. ACED agrees to contribute up to \$1,000 as well as administrative support.
3. 2019-011 - Moved by Lewis Hodgson, Seconded by Willy Hollett;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the position descriptions for the Director of Economic Development and the Economic Development Officer as circulated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday August 19, 2019 at the Strong Municipal Office.