

GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Meeting Minutes

Monday November 13, 2023 4:00 p.m.
Greene County Office Building, Room 427
411 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414

GCEDC Directors Present:

Mark Maraglio, Chair
Linda Overbaugh
Allen Austin
Brian Kozloski
Andrea Macko

Absent:

Brad Cummings, Vice-Chair
Pam Geskie (Ex-officio, Non-voting)
April Ernst (Ex-officio, Non-voting)
Dr. George Timmons (Ex-officio, Non-voting)

GCEDC Staff Present:

James Hannahs, Executive Director
Evelyn Donnelly, Secretary/Treasurer

Others: Warren Hart, Deputy County Administrator

A valid quorum was present for voting purposes.

1. Public Comment Period. No public comment.
2. A motion was made by Director Overbaugh and seconded by Director Austin to accept the minutes as presented from the October 4, 2023 meeting. Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
3. A motion was made by Director Austin and seconded by Director Overbaugh to approve the RFP for Microenterprise Administrative Consulting for the GCEDC made by The Harrison Studio. Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
4. A motion was made by Director Overbaugh and seconded by Director Austin to enter executive session at 4:23 pm. Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
A motion was made by Director Overbaugh and seconded by Director Macko to exit executive session at 4:50 pm. Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
 - A motion was made by Director Overbaugh and seconded by Director Austin to approve the Microenterprise Assistance Application for Red Star Cafe Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
 - No motion was made to approve the Microenterprise Assistance Application for Jeffrey Boyer Productions due to unreasonable cost estimates

- A motion was made by Director Austin and seconded by Director Overbaugh to approve the Microenterprise Assistance Application for Johnk Family Farm Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
- A motion was made by Director Overbaugh and seconded by Director Austin to approve the Microenterprise Assistance Application for Catskill Bicycle Shop Vote 5-0, Motion carries.

5. Executive Director's Report:

Director Hannahs disclosed the status of the EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant. The Coalition Assessment Grant was assembled with community partnerships between Greene County, Choose Columbia Economic Development Corporation representing Columbia County, and the Hunter Foundation. The partnership was formed for two primary reasons: to expand the catchment area for the proposed scope of assessment work to be undertaken with broader administrative capacity, and to adequately represent areas that encompass opportunities to advance Environmental Justice practices. Both of these reasons were identified as areas of opportunity for improvement following the unsuccessful 2022 EPA Assessment submission by Greene County. The grant is expected to be submitted by the end of the week.

Microenterprise closings are progressing as three additional applicants are planned to close this week. Roughly half of the state-allocated grant funds have been earmarked for microenterprise grants. Director Hannahs further indicated that the remainder of the funds should be exhausted by end of December or January.

Director Hannahs gave further insight on various business attraction, retention, and expansion efforts that took place over the last month. Specific focus was spent on a regional restaurateur looking to expand into Greene County, a commercial bakery seeking expansionary space, meetings with potential housing developers, and community tours with ESD and municipalities that submitted New York Forward applications. A total of 4 communities across Greene County submitted applications.

Director Hannahs and ED Specialist Boomhower continued to make progress on the Senior Housing Assessment as they are building the countywide inventory list for Camoin's full assessment report. They are working internally with Human Services to ensure they are completing the inventory list as comprehensive as possible.

Additionally, Director Hannahs provided details on his latest conference visits in Syracuse NY as well as his address in the State of Economies hosted by Columbia Greene Community College.

6. Board Discussion about various community projects and developments ensued.

7. A motion was made by Director Austin and seconded by Director Overbaugh, having no further business to conduct to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0, Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.