



**VOYAGE FORWARD COALITION**  
**August 9, 2016 8:30 RAINY RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**STEWARDS PRESENT:** Mike Wellcome, Allyssa Hackenmuller. Sheila Demenge, Myrna Meadows, Tammy Riley, Ward Merrill, Doug Skrief, Travis Glowasky.

**Members Absent:** Paul Nevenan Sherril Gautreaux.

**Audience:** Jean Evens

**I. WELCOME AND CHAMPION UPDATE**

Each Driver Champion presented an update on their Driver.

- 1) Douglas Skrief – Focus has been on a community facility to provide support for all age groups.
- 2) Travis Glowasky – Cross Border Initiatives. Discussion is ongoing for a second immigration checkpoint possibly at VNP.
- 3) Tammy Riley – Skilled Workforce and Talent Development. The survey has been developed to identify businesses and non-profit contact information. The survey will determine workforce needs throughout the County. NHED (Bill Maki) has donated \$1,000 to the Voyage Forward effort with Backus as the fiscal agent. Part of these funds will be used to purchase a subscription to Survey Monkey.
- 4) Mike Wellcome – Economic Development Framework. Invitations to city, business, and organizational representatives have been sent. The first meeting of the Partnership will take place at Backus on 8/17 @ 10:00 am.

**II. BUDGET AND FUNDING**

Budget and funding was discussed at great length. Alysa, Ward, and Mike will put together a presentation with funding needs for review by the Coalition on August 30<sup>th</sup>. There are several tasks that came out of this discussion. Champions are requested to:

- Provide Mike with a list of accomplishments and projects that are being discussed.
- Identify in-kind expenses including wages, printing, and/or marketing costs. Please use the Workforce Development Budget as a guideline. Voyage Forward has a considerable volunteer base and although we are not being paid for this work, volunteer time is valuable.

**Voyage Forward Vision**

*We are one community focused on the future which values our citizens, environment, and unique culture. We are open to all ideas and value the input from our citizens. We understand to improve, we must look to the future and invest in community and economic development.*

**III. COORDINATOR ROLE.**

- a. Tabled until our next meeting
  - i. Coalition members must decide whether to select a member from the Coalition or seek a seek someone that is not an existing member. Responsibilities may include:
    - 1. Updating content on VF website
    - 2. Internal and external communications
    - 3. Facilitate Coalition meetings
    - 4. Other ?

**IV. WEBSITE**

The contract with Big Fish Digital for website management expires in October. The coalition needs to decide whether to renew or to choose another host. Alysa and Travis will put together an RFP to manage the website. Mike will update Big Fish Digital and let them know we will be seeking bids. The current site is using Wordpress and we will stay with that template. Update will be provided to the Coalition at our next meeting.

**V. DISCUSS PROCESS FOR SELECTING AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

Myrna Meadows was selected as an at-large member. (Congratulations Myrna!). There are still three at-large positions available; one within Ranier/I'Falls zip codes (56649 and 56668) and two outside Ranier/I'Falls. Selection of at-large members has been delayed until August 30<sup>th</sup>. Champions are encouraged to contact individuals and let them know of the at-large opportunity. Encourage them to submit a letter of interest explaining why they are interested, their pertinent skills and their ability to commit the required time to serve on the board. The applications must be submitted by August 29.

**VI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Coalition meeting will be August 30, 8:30 at RRCC room SC114. This meeting is expected to be less than one hour with two items on the agenda.

- 1. Selection of at-large members
- 2. Review funding presentation.

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A full Coalition meeting will be held September 15, 1:00 at RRCC room SC114. Agenda will include budgets, at-large appointments, pressing issues and barriers, selection of a Coordinator, and website.

**VII. ADJOURN.**

The group adjourned at 10:30.

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