

**VOYAGE FORWARD COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 10:00 am
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING**

STEWARDS PRESENT: Mike Wellcome, Pete Schultz, Sherril Gautreaux, Tammy Riley, Myrna Meadows

I. WELCOME

- a. To approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Schultz; seconded by Meadows and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

- b. To approve the minutes of the previous Coalition Driver meeting of 6/27/17.

A motion was made by Schultz; seconded by Meadows and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- c. Review budget.

The account balance stands at \$1,839.65 with no new receipts or debits. An outstanding invoice will be forthcoming from Studio Gibbous for the Go Daddy annual contract.

A motion was made by Meadows; seconded by Riley and carried unanimously to approve the current budget report.

II. CHAMPION UPDATES

Workforce Development – The Workforce Development Team continues to focus on determining the Skills of the Existing Workforce. Follow-up with APEX (Area Partnerships for Economic Expansion) resulted in a phone conference with Brian Hanson, President & CEO and Ian Vincent, Senior Business Developer. APEX will be conducting an assessment of the NE MN Region to determine existing skills gaps. Skills data is needed for site selectors interested in developing a business in our region. Koochiching County will be included in the areas surveyed. Voyage Forward Workforce Development Destiny Driver participation in this project is welcomed and our committee will be included in the entire process. APEX anticipates administration of the survey to begin Nov. 2017 with final results by Sept. 2018. Some discussion was had on whether VF should renew an expiring contract with Survey Monkey. Riley will consult with her driver team and report back on a decision.

Cross Border Initiative – The OARS (Outlying Area Reporting Stations) Lake of the Woods study was released and reported in The Journal. The pilot project is working on specific apps to address the reporting process.

Tourism – The driver team drafted a letter to Koochiching County on short term vacation rentals and suggested that the County develop an ordinance governing the topic. The team will meet again and formulate correspondence to each city on Short Term Vacation Rentals once Kooch County responds. Voyageur Country ATV Club printed a map which depicts all of the trails that are currently connected and continues to work on further trail connectivity. It was noted that ATV use is outpacing that of snowmobiles.

Economic Development/Marketing Partnership –The one-page marketing message for the Voyage Forward region is completed. It is a template that will allow cities to use their own logo, web address and photograph. Wellcome is drafting correspondence to each city that will describe the template and the process for inputting each city’s information. There was some discussion of recent interaction with C-D-G and the group’s use of Voyage Forward survey results and work. The group mentions VF in its draft comprehensive plan which can be found at envision-if.org. Members of VF recently met with Shawn Herhusky, DEED Workforce Strategy Consultant regarding regional plans and career paths for the targeted industries of healthcare and construction.

III. QUARTERLY MEETING

The next regional meeting will be held in Northome on 9/20/17. Information will be submitted to 2 newspapers in Northome along with the l’Falls Journal and VF Facebook page. Some points to consider for the Northome meeting:

- **An after action report**
- **Hand out the feedback forms at the beginning of the meeting**
- **Pay attention to AV equipment compatibility, proper cords, etc. Wellcome will work with Small Town Tech and ask that they donate the use of AV equipment for the presentation. Wellcome will ensure that the equipment is compatible to his laptop prior to the trip to Northome.**
- **Review the community’s survey questions prior to regional meeting to use as talking points in the VF summary**
- **Update the driver handouts making any necessary modifications and return to Wellcome by 9/11/17**

IV. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Riley updated the Coalition Strategic Plan which includes recent activity. Items should be added to the document following each meeting.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Coalition meeting will be on 10/5/2017 @ 10:00 at the Ranier Community Hall.

VI. ADJOURN.

The group adjourned at 11:15.