

ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)

MINUTES January 25, 2024

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Strong Office and virtually on January 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour, Chair
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative
Dan Robertson, Township of Ryerson
Justine Leveque, Village of Sundridge
Tim Bryson, Township of Strong
Chris Nicholson, Township of Joly
Brenda Scott, Village of South River
Chris Hope, Village of Burk's Falls
Ron Begin, FedNor
Trista Porter, MND

Regrets:

Staff: Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development
Courtney Metcalf, Economic Development Officer
Sarah Cooke, Communications Officer
John Theriault, Township of Armour

Guests: Rod Ward, Township of Armour
Sheri Norman, AHCC

Call to Order

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday December 19, 2023 meeting were adopted as presented.

Director's Report

2023 Annual Report

The Director presented the 2023 Annual report to the Board. The report described what was accomplished in 2023. Details included the development of relationships, regional results, some key performance indicators and some 2023 result highlights. The Board passed a resolution requesting that the report be circulated to the partners for review.

2024 ACED Department Draft Work Plan

The Director presented to the Board the proposed 2024 ACED Department work plan. He reviewed what the department is envisioning to accomplish in 2024. The work included in the work plan is based on the reports completed in the past, these include the 2016 BR&E report, the 2018 Red Plan, the 2020 Agricultural Strategy and the 2021 Brand Strategy. Details included business support and development, community development, economic capacity building, marketing and promotion and special events and projects. Performance targets are also included in the work plan to evaluate its effectiveness. The Board was requested to review the work plan and forward their comments to the Director.

ACED Council Delegations

A verbal report was given on the delegations that were sent to different municipalities to attempt to get all of the regional municipalities to join in funding ACED. The delegates reported that they had good discussions with some of the surrounding councils, but that they did not have any definite answers yet. The delegations have met with the Councils of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith, the Municipality of Magnetawan and the Township of Machar. Meetings are scheduled to meet with the Councils of the Town of Kearney, the Municipality of Powassan and the Township of Ryerson.

Roundtable Comments

The representative of the Chamber of Commerce advised the Board that this year would be the 10th anniversary of the launch of their tourism guide.

FedNor Update

A new funding program is now available for tourism. FedNor has not received many applications for this grant program. They are more looking for applications for businesses, not municipalities, who wish to grow their business. If any business is interested, please apply quickly.

MND Update

RED applications are back out with a February 21, 2024 deadline. The Province announced the allocation of 3.6 million in grants in the Nipissing area. There will be another intake soon for this program. The new fiscal year for the Province is April 1, 2024 and money for the grant may be getting tight.

Resolutions

1. 2024-001 – Moved by Margaret Ann MacPhail; Seconded by Tim Bryson;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of December 19, 2023, as circulated. Carried
2. 2024-002 – Moved by Chris Nicholson; Seconded by Justine Leveque;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board have received and reviewed the 2023 ACED Annual Report and requested that it be circulated to ACED partners for review at their upcoming council/board meetings. Carried

Adjournment

3. 2024-003 – Moved by Sherri Norman; Seconded by Margaret Ann MacPhail;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the January 25, 2024, ACED meeting at 7:49 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. If this change, members will be advised.