



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2015 - Monticello, New York

Present	Absent
Jacob Billig Jim Bates Eric Egeland Gary Schmidt Karin Hilgersom Lela Nussbaum Gerald Skoda Jeff Siegel Pamela Pesante-Krauss Tammy Mangus Randy Resnick Dan Grady – via conference call Gerard Galarneau Karen Fisher – via conference call Cathy Paty Matt Dorcas Steve Vegliante Warren Blumenthal Fred Stabbert III Gary Silver Michael Dollard John Conway Richard Sush Steve White	Edward Sykes Suzanne Loughlin Roberta Byron-Lockwood Joshua Potosek Glenn Sutherland Glenn Gidaly George Kinne Alan Zuckerman Darlene Fedun Lou Klugman

Also present: Andrew Arias, Laura Quigley, Marc Baez, Michele Klugman-Resnick and Jennifer Clayton

Let the record show there was a quorum.

The board meeting was called to order 8:00 am by Jacob Billig. Jacob introduced Andrew Arias to the board.

Andrew Arias went over the draft of the financials with the board. HVEDC Dues weren't paid last year, the consulting fees went up and a new employee was hired in 2014. Andrew stated that 1 loan was written off; there was \$6,000 in interest from the loans. Andrew stated that once the board approves the draft financials, they will be finalized and the Form 990 will be filled out. The board had no further questions.

Motion to finalize the financials was by Jim Bates and seconded by Gerald Skoda, all were in favor. Motion was passed.

Jim Bates motioned to accept the March minutes and Jeff Siegel seconded, all were in favor. Motion was passed.

Gary Silver motioned to accept the March schedule of payments and Jim Bates seconded. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Eric Egeland had sent out an email about strategic planning and the research that needs to be done and he has gotten a few responses.

Catskill Workforce Alliance – next meeting will be April 14 from 10-12 at Partnership office. Laura Quigley stated that 18 people had attended. Tim Lies gave an overview on the project, the # of employees that would be needed, etc. Working on determining what would be the roles for the College, BOCES, etc. Hospitality skills alliance to be created, using a blue print from another county, a needs assessment analysis will be done. Roberta Byron-Lockwood will help with pulling together what the needs of the hospitality businesses would be. Employers questionnaire to be completed and will go out to all members to get their feedback. What does our labor shed look like? This would help us go after a grant. Education/Training committee will met Friday; this came out of the Alliance meeting. Looking to create a work readiness training to go and get hired at Montreign/Adalaar.

Randy Resnick asked what the current issues we have with the workforce are. Going to take current employees away from local businesses. How can we retain our employees? Laura stated that the Alliance is addressing that issue but the casino had been the catalyst but not the whole goal of the Alliance. Jeff Siegel stated people are looking for jobs off the books or to make more money than they collect on unemployment. Put pressure on employers to increase wages. The Alliance will be the channel to obtain funding from the state and federal to do training, get into the schools to show them there is a career option here if not going to college. There are career paths and need to educate them early. Pam Krauss stated that we also need to get to the parents and to change the mentality in the county. Steve Vegliante stated that he deals with the growth side and asked what the benefits are. Matt Dorcas stated that it is not just a Sullivan County issue but a national problem, kids feel entitled. Eric Egeland stated that we need to lay out what happened in other areas by doing the research. Jim Bates stated that Veria is pushing for an opening at the end of 2016, possibly creating another 1000 jobs.

Sullivan County Airport received a \$1million grant for a new hangar. Has been losing money but has maintained the upkeep. Aiming to pull in executives and construction CEOS to use the airport. Later down the road could possibly be commercial service.

Focusing on healthcare also not just casinos. Leverage businesses to grow, Alliance are going in the right direction by not just focusing on casino employees. Focus on things that are sustainable. The Poconos never built up anything else around the casino. Matt Dorcas stated everyone is working hard to set up Sullivan County for success. Need to push the state to invest more money in the roadways, should have conversations with Aileen Gunther and John Bonacic. How do we get the state more involved, state needs to help us more, how to best leverage theses issues.

Roberta Byron-Lockwood is working on reaching out to other counties to bring them into our hubs: food, recreation, etc. They are interested in what we have to offer. Focus on who we are today and bring attention to the county.

Cathy Paty is working on setting up a MWVBE seminar; want to put out the training as part of Sullivan United. It will be on May 20 to explain what the process is, what it is and how to fill out the application. Disney Training in May, only 150 slots available will go fast. May try to get them to come back. Proud to be Sullivan – changing the mentality of the residents is the key.

Karin Hilgersom spoke about HWI. A card campaign was done. Postcards were put in the Sullivan County Democrat. Karin is working on setting up Town Hall meetings, the 1st one is at the college and she is looking at other locations to hold them. There is urgency because the college does not have a sponsor, need to get the county to commit.

Michael Dollard motioned to adjourn the monthly board meeting at 9:16am and Matt Dorcas seconded, all were in favor. Motion was passed.

Next board meeting will be Tuesday, May 5 @ 8am.