

**Wasatch Front Economic Development District
STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Shawn Milne, Chair

Michael Bouwhuis, Vice Chair

LaNiece Davenport, Director

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 2, 2015 1:00 pm
Wasatch Front Regional Council
295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Members Present

Shawn Milne, Chair
Michael Bouwhuis, Vice Chair
Bill Applegarth, Riverton City
Susie Becker, Zions Bank
Carlton Christensen, Salt Lake County
James Ebert, Weber County
Scott Parkinson, Bank of Utah
Alan Rindlisbacher, Layton Construction
Bill Perry, Perry Homes, Inc.
Tom Christopoulos, Ogden City

Others Present

Marland Eldred (phone), Davis County
Trisha Korbis (phone), Economic Development Administration
Douglas Larsen, Weber County
Sherrie Martell, EDCUtah
Ann Mackin, Davis Applied Technology College
David Robinson, BioInnovations Gateway
Sandra Hemmert, BioInnovations Gateway
Scott Marland, BioInnovations Gateway
Christina Oliver, Salt Lake County
Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Ben Hart, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Greg Jones, University of Utah
Ted Knowlton, Wasatch Front Regional Council
LaNiece Davenport, Wasatch Front Regional Council / Wasatch Front Economic Development District
Kevin Cisney, Wasatch Front Economic Development District

1. Welcome and Introductions

Shawn Milne, Chair

Chairman Shawn Milne welcomed the Strategy Committee to the first Strategy Committee meeting of the year. All who were present, including those attending via conference call, gave brief introductions.

2. ACTION BY BOARD – Approve Minutes from November 24, 2014

Milne, Chair

Chairman Milne directed the Committee's attention to the minutes from the previous Strategy Committee meeting held on November 24, 2014. Carlton Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes from November 24, 2014, Mike Bouwhuis seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Discussion - EDA Update

Trisha Korbas

Chairman Milne introduced Trisha Korbas with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Ms. Korbas discussed the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) grant application process and other updates from EDA. The EDA is a small agency within the Department of Commerce that provides grants to counties, states, universities, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. The primary mission of the EDA is to create jobs and promote private sector investments in distressed areas by awarding grants to entities that will achieve those goals. Obtaining a grant from the EDA is very competitive. If an applicant has a beneficiary attached to their grant, they have a better chance of winning a grant. Entities that submit a grant application need to follow the application format very specifically. Applicants need to be as detailed as possible and clearly define the economic impact of their project. There are six principle elements in the application process and each one needs to be thoroughly addressed in order to have a good chance of receiving a grant. For more information, go to grants.gov or contact Justin Fazzari at jfazzari@eda.gov.

4. Presentation – BioInnovations Gateway (BiG) Project

Scott Marland

Chairman Milne introduced Scott Marland who is the Executive Director of BioInnovations Gateway (BiG). Mr. Marland shared information about BiG with the Strategy Committee. BiG's campus is located in South Salt Lake and focuses curriculum and research on life sciences, medical devices, technology, biotechnology, and cancer research, among other fields. BiG helps create both the supply and demand of the local workforce by educating students and taking on real world projects. The workforce development at the campus is focused primarily on STEM fields, which is a growing field of work both nationally and in the State of Utah. Mr. Marland stated that BiG has outgrown their campus, it is not large enough to support the demand for their services and they are looking to expand their existing facilities. BiG applied for an EDA grant in 2014 and were not successful in winning the grant. They are hoping to make an application and apply for the next round of funding. In order to do this, they will highlight their focus on STEM fields and the tuition assistance they provide to economically disadvantaged students. Mr. Milne thanked Mr. Marland and the other representatives from BiG for coming and presenting this information to the Committee.

5. Presentation – Broadband and Economic Development

Kelleigh Cole

Chairman Milne introduced Kelleigh Cole who is the Utah Broadband Project Program Manager at the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Ms. Cole explained that broadband includes any technologies that transmit the internet. Utah is the number one state for computer ownership per capita in the nation and number eight for internet speed, which means it is critical for Utah to continue to develop and maintain its broadband infrastructure. Mr. Cole shared with the Committee that Utah Broadband maps are available online that provide users the ability to look up internet speeds and internet providers by any location or geography throughout the state. She stated that as part of Utah's plan for economic development, the Utah Broadband Project hopes to improve upon and develop public-private partnerships within the state. They also work to assist disadvantaged populations in order to gain more access to the internet. The Program has created maps of areas that have access to fiber and other high speed internet options. There is still work to be done to improve the state's access to high speed internet. Ms. Davenport noted that the WFRC worked with the Utah Broadband Project to create a regional Broadband Plan for the Wasatch Front region and that copies of that Plan are available to any Committee member. Mr. Milne thanked Ms. Cole for coming and presenting information today.

6. Presentation – Salt Lake County IMCP Project Update

Christina Oliver, Greg Jones

Mr. Milne introduced Christina Oliver who is the Economic Development Division Director for Salt Lake County. Ms. Oliver introduced Greg Jones who is the project lead on the IMCP project. Ms. Oliver explained that the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is an initiative designed to help federal agencies appropriate economic development funds, specifically with regards to manufacturing industries. Mr. Jones shared with the Committee where the best composite clusters are in the state, including the carbon cluster composite. The carbon composite cluster is the number 2 or 3 most economically powerful cluster in Utah. The carbon composite cluster includes industries such as ski manufacturing, guns, airplane wings, aircraft, bicycles, tennis racquets, and other items. Ms. Oliver stated that the focus of the partnership is on workforce

development and training. There are or will be innovation centers focused on workforce development and training in Ogden, Clearfield, Salt Lake County, and Box Elder Counties. Mr. Jones stated that there are many job openings in the carbon composites cluster including many that pay \$18-\$20 an hour. He reminded us that it is important to maximize the economic potential we have in this region. Mr. Milne thanked Ms. Oliver and Mr. Jones for their presentation to the Committee.

7. ACTION BY COMMITTEE - Approve New CEDS Projects

LaNiece Davenport

Ms. Davenport reminded the Committee that their primary responsibility is to guide the development of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or CEDS. The CEDS includes projects that members from the region have added. The project list is updated quarterly as needed. She asked members to review the 49 projects and explained that the bolded projects have been completed since the adoption of the CEDS and the projects in red are new. She briefly described the 4 new projects: (1) Clearfield City Front Runner Pedestrian Bridge to Freeport Center \$2.5m; (2) Clearfield City H Street Pond Redevelopment Beautification \$TBD; (3) Clearfield City Downtown Rejuvenation \$50,000; and (4) Salt Lake County Infrastructure Manufacturing Innovation Hub \$TBD. Ms. Davenport proposed that the #4 project lead change from "Salt Lake County" to the "University of Utah". Mr. Bouwhuis proposed that the project priority increase from "Medium" to "High". Mr. Bouwhuis made a motion to approve the new projects and project modifications. Mr. Christensen seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Shelly Betz asked how project priorities were determined. It was explained that the entity that submits the project determines its priority and this is oftentimes based on the number of goals and jobs a project is expected to produce.

8. Other Business

LaNiece Davenport

Chairman Milne noted that the next Strategy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 1:00 pm at the Wasatch Front Regional Council. No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.