

Naturally Lewis | Lewis County Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 2023

Board Members Present | Tim Petersen, Shellie Marks, Christie Andrus-Nakano, Tyler McDonald, Mike Bradish, Mick Lehman, Larry Dolhof

Absent | Jessica Clemons, Eric Sunderhaft, Eric Virkler

Others Present | Brittany Davis, Cheyenne Steria, Jenna Lauraine, Kristen Aucter, Kaylee Tabolt, Emma Dening

- I. Call to Order Naturally Lewis Mission Statement
 - a. Tim Petersen called the meeting to order at 10:03am
- II. Privilege of the Floor

10:04am-10:06am

- **a.** Emma Dening, the Economic Development Summer Intern with Naturally Lewis, was introduced by Brittany Davis.
- III. Minutes for the May Regular Meeting

10:06am-10:07am

- a. The minutes of the May Regular Meeting were approved by Mick Lehman and seconded by Tyler McDonald. All present were in favor and motion carried.
- IV. Financial Reports for May & June

10:07am-10:08am

- a. The LCDC Board reviewed the previously distributed financial reports of May & June for Black Moose Development, LLC and the LCDC.
- b. A motion to approve of the financials reports was made by Mike Bradish and Tyler McDonald. All present were in favor and motion carried.
- V. Items for Approval
- VI. Executive Director's Report

10:09am-10:23am

a. Brittany Davis noted partnership updates, research and education updates, outreach and visibility updates, and strategic funding development updates for the months of July and August.

VII. Discussion Items

10:24am-11:02am

- a. USDA
 - i. Brittany Davis noted the history of the USDA Rural Business Development Grant for the LCDC and Black River Valley Natural, and the interference of COVID on the project. Davis also noted the LCDC's role in this project, as there is an approved line of credit that Black River Valley Natural may choose to use as a loan to purchase equipment. The LCDC would receive the USDA funds as a grant, and as they are paid back by BRVN, it would turn into a revolving loan fund for other businesses to utilize.
 - **ii.** The LCDC Board discussed the specifics of the USDA's process and reimbursement timeline. Additionally, the Board discussed clauses that



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should be in place if Black River Valley Natural chooses to exercise the use of this loan, like the right to seize equipment in the case of payment default. Staff indicated it will keep the board informed if BRVN and the LCDC moves forward with the grant/loan.

- b. CEDP Timeline & Details
 - i. Brittany Davis provided the tentative timeline of the Community Economic Development Program opportunities to the Board.
- c. Lyons Falls NY Forward Project
 - i. The Board discussed potential opportunities with the Lyons Falls Mill Site as the Village of Lyons Falls has been awarded Restore NY funds.
 - ii. The Board will establish a Committee to discuss this potential further and propose a final project to the full Board.
- d. Naturally Lewis, Inc. Timeline & Updates
 - i. Brittany Davis provided an update on the Naturally Lewis, Inc. timeline and transition. The anticipated staff transition date is October 1, 2023.

VIII. Adjournment

a. A motion to adjourn was made at 11:02am by Mick Lehman and seconded by Shellie Marks. All present were in favor and motion carried.