

**Entrepreneurship & Small Business
Alliance Meeting
April 14, 2009
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
CCSR**

Attendees: Tracee Adams, Nick Ayon, Tom Phillips, Stan Smith, John Willoughby, Roger Douthett, Marcia Stevens, Kendall Heier, Jack Huber, Tim Pett, Vicki Pratt Gerbino, Wendy Veatch, Teri Taylor, Libby Pearson, Joe Goetz, Marc Howell, Donna Wright

Review notes from March 10, 2009 Alliance meeting - approved

Presentation by Vicki Pratt Gerbino

Presentation

- What is economic development? Spending public \$ to make other things happen
- GWEDC doesn't get involved in entrepreneurship – there are plenty of others doing that
- Mission – diversifying the economy
- New this year – visiting local companies to see how they can help their business grow and stay here

Q&A

- Is aerospace industry supportive of diversification? *(yes) very supportive*
- What does it take (\$) to develop an industrial park? *The cost can vary widely depending on the piece of land*
- Why can't we do this? *GWEDC has a transaction team that addresses these issues. Problem becomes the money. Municipalities are being asked to give when they don't have the funds. Need to become creative.*
- How are properties identified? *Who will be responsible for cost of development, etc?*
- How serious are our leaders when it comes to economic development? *They claim it is a priority. \$ are the issue.*
- What are we good at? *Role is to take relationships that have been built and continue to develop and work with them. Truthfully at national level, we don't get to see some projects because we are not considered a player at that level. Have worked with legislators at state level to improve our package to compete nationally. Locally, the transaction team can respond immediately.*

- How can this Alliance help GWEDC move forward? *Help small businesses to develop and grow. This matters in a community. There is much synergy between us. Alliance can be cheerleaders for Economic development.*

Overview of 3Rs Process

- Reviewed the process that was used in the community for their input.
- People want alignment with the plans that have been developed. Want to start within the next two years
- Downtown revitalization was a major topic. Want it to happen – now.
- What we need downtown is connectivity between sites.

Identify important initiatives for the Alliance

- This alliance needs to work in the area of jobs.
- How can we continue to do what we are doing but in a different way.
- Possibly become involved with an industrial park development.
- Can intellectual capital be developed? Young people feel they have to leave the area for these kinds of jobs. Maybe we call it an intellectual capital park.

MBI Update

- Out of 8 who graduated have 4 feasibility studies
- Facilitators need to review and present certificates of completion
- Need to go through a 3R process for MBI

Next Steps – Alliance going forward

- Going forward the Alliance will not have CCSR facilitation. Suzie & Diane will continue to provide the administrative support. Facilitation responsibilities will be shared by the Alliance members.
- Invite Phyllis Robertson to present at the next meeting concerning needs of small businesses. This will help us focus on what we should be targeting.

Next Alliance meeting

- Alliance –May 5 @9:00 a.m.(will be confirmed by Diane after talking with Phyllis) @ Chamber

Meeting Agreements

Who	What	By When
Suzie	Invite Phyllis Robertson to present about her findings with small businesses at next alliance meeting	
Diane	Confirm availability of Chamber board room for May 5 Alliance meeting	