

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual Meeting & Aitkin County Government Center
Date: April 26, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Facilitator: Burl Ives

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** 10:01am by Chair Ives
- II. **Roll Call:** Present in person: Ricky Roche, Burl Ives, Travis Leiviska, Rick Goutermont
Present virtually: Paul McDonald, Stacy Hawkins, Tom Proulx
Staff Present: Marie Domiano, Randy Lampton, Tara Helms. Also, Breanne Johnson from Talon Metals.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Move to approve 4-26-23 agenda by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Goutermont. No discussion. Unanimously passed and approved.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Move to approve 3-23-23 agenda by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. No discussion. Unanimously passed and approved.
- V. **Old Business:** No old business.
- VI. **New Business**
 - a) **Talon Metals/Tamarack Nickel Project Presentation:** Breanne Johnson, Community Coordinator from Talon Metals, presented on the Talon Metals Tamarack Nickel project. The Tamarack Nickel Project means significant impact on economic growth. It is the only high-grade nickel mine under development in the US. If you would like a tour reach out to Jessica to schedule. Tour covers the core shed, observation of core, the ability to talk to employees, tour of the main zone and a drill rig. Talon is open to student groups, partnering with 218 Trades and hosting internships. Currently 87 employees. 67 out of Tamarack Minnesota, others working remotely. 80% of Talon employees live in Minnesota. Purchase out all of their own equipment. Employ their own geophysics and exploration teams. They are purchasing 3 additional drill rigs this year, which they prefer to acquire from local vendors. Job postings on website, shifts are 12 hours and are 14 days long with 7 days off. The average wage range is \$66,000-\$81,000 and they offer a great benefit package. Reached out to surrounding school districts for summer interns in professional and technical fields. Future job opportunities estimate 250 employees. Does not include construction. Local spending \$56 million in local goods and services. 12 million is within a 30-mile radius. State Mineral Lease Fees of around \$11 million. Over 1 million to schools from state mineral lease fees. Next steps: Environmental review process will kick-off in the second quarter and be submitted to the department in land and minerals. Contact info will be shared with the presentation. Timeframe: Hoping 2027 to be an underground nickel mine.
 - b) **Funding Summary:** All grants are on pace to be spent out or to at least 80% spent out as need. No concerns from the fiscal department. Looks good. Carry over is why multiple grant years exist as well as reallocation amounts. No questions.
 - c) **JET/WDB Structure Letter:** Executive board looked at structure. Letter to be drafted to WDB (Workforce Development Board) as our composition of the people is lopsided. WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) law dictates we have a certain amount of

people from specific areas, the LEO (Local Elected Official) board has the power to give direction to WDB to Marie to adjust the composition. The letter also details how LEO, as the governing board of JET, are the authority. Consensus on how it is written. ***Motion to accept the letter that Executive board authored: Motion from Proulx, seconded by Leiviska.** Discussion: Commissioner Proulx: A great meeting, due diligence conducted regarding document. Paul: Who is this going receive the document: WDB and members. Hawkins: What is WIOA? Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant. Approval: To be signed and mailed. Motion unanimously passed and approved.

- d) **WDB Composition:** Board pack contains composition document from each area and background they must have and job and function. Nine categories 51% must be from business. Executive committee met; changes suggested. Some members do not meet the intent of the law. Key industries and representation from counties are missing. Completed due diligence on how structure should be to be compliant. Other WDA's eliminating independent consultants because they do not have employees therefore not meeting the intent of WIOA law.
- a. **Motion to accept Tracy Sarri nomination:** Motion to accept nomination for WDB from McDonald and second by Leiviska. No discussion. Roche: Great addition to board. Unanimously passed and approved.

Next steps: Letter will be going out shortly. Composition outline that was submitted, changes will be made. Finalize any removals. Removal, added, list by May. The Executive board will meet and decide the next steps then come back to the full board for approval. Goutermont: Fill person's seat, make sure we have enough people around to do business.

VII. **County Updates:**

VIII. **Next Meeting:** May 24, 2023 @ 10am in Cook County Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- May 24, 2023: Commissioner Hawkins, Cook County
- **Meeting in Courthouse in the Commissioners Room in Grand Marais.
- June 28, 2023: Commissioner Proulx, Carlton County
- September 27, 2023: Commissioner Goutermont, Lake County
- October 25, 2023: Commissioner McDonald, St. Louis County (Confirmed)
- November 22, 2023: Commissioner Roche, Koochiching County (Confirmed)

VIII. **Adjourn:** Commissioner Ives adjourned at 11:27 am.

Tara Helms, Recording Secretary

Tom Proulx, LEO Secretary