Nelson County Economic Development Authority

March 14, 2025

Present: Carlton Ballowe, John Bruguiere, Alphonso Taylor, Deb Brown, Jeri Lloyd, Larry Saunders

Guest: Rebecca Haydock, Venture Central

Larry Saunders called the meeting to order.

There was no public comment.

Motion: To approve the February 6, 2025 meeting minutes. Bruguiere-Ballowe (6-0)

Introductions included perspectives from EDA members about their economic development priorities. Infrastructure was the most common response noting the need for hotels in support of tourism. Job creation was noted as important, as was a hope for the County to experience a mindset shift beyond historical norms, such as a primary focus on agriculture.  
  
Overall:  
The EDA understands that progress can happen when a detailed enough vision can be communicated and supported for projects that advance economic prosperity. Examples provided were CvilleBioHub, The Wine Coalition, and Venture Central's Food & Beverage acceleration study.   
  
A strategic plan for advancing economic prosperity needs to be developed for Nelson County that has enough detail to be actionable. In other words, if the County can hone in on projects that will support businesses starting and/or growing or moving to Nelson, it is likely that the economic development office and other collaborators may be able to get such projects funded with a vision toward sustainability. The good news is that several studies exist that point to solutions that may open access to grants to advance initiatives that can advance economic prosperity.   
  
The Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative study and action plan were discussed in detail. , as was the CEDS and Venture Hub plan. Next steps include an April 4th strategic visioning session with an outside consultant.

Next EDA meeting will be held July 10, 2025 at 3 pm at the Nelson Center with guest speaker Margaret Clair from the Nelson County Community Development Fund to tlak about housing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.