

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2018**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held a board meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2018 in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

Present: David Converse, Chair, John Jennings, Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., Lisa LøHuillier, Donald DiMonda, Kent Burto, W. Edward Walldroff, Gregory Gardner, William Johnson

Also Present: David Zembiec, Lyle Eaton, Peggy Sampson, Marshall Weir, Jay Matteson, Joseph Russell, Esq., and Marcus Wolf from the Watertown Daily Times

Excused: Paul Warneck, Richard Duvall

Absent: None

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. Converse called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Converse asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Privilege of the Floor:** Mr. Converse invited guests to speak. No one spoke.
- IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the regular meeting held February 1, 2018 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Burto, seconded by Mr. Jennings. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Aliasso reviewed the financials for the period ending February 28, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Aliasso to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:** None.
- VII. Council Reports:**

Manufacturing

Mr. Zembiec said that he recently submitted a new grant application for the occupational safety training program. He said that we should be notified around May or June if it will be funded.

Marketing

Mr. Weir said that he gave a presentation to the Jefferson County Finance and Rules Committee on Tuesday night. The main focus of the presentation was rebranding of the Jefferson County Economic Development which started in 2014 and was included in advertisements and social media. Mr. Weir shared the presentation with board members.

Ag

Ag Park ó Mr. Matteson said he continues to work with Mike Lundy on the proposed Ag Park. He said that they met with BOCES last week regarding their needs and said that two local businesses have expressed interest in the park.

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Meat Processing ó Mr. Matteson said that the consultants from Dakota Group will be at the Ag Conference on March 23 and will provide an update.

Ag Marketing ó Mr. Matteson said that he along with Mr. Weir have been working to update the Ag Marketing which will continue to focus on location, but will also emphasize our dairy processing cluster as well.

Ag Website ó Mr. Matteson reported that the Ag website was hacked and he is working with WPBS (web provider) on cleaning up the issues.

Dairy Parade ó Mr. Matteson said he has begun work on this year's dairy parade.

Presentation ó Mr. Matteson invited board members to attend Cherie Ditch's BUS 101 Class on March 12 at 1:15 p.m. to see how he challenges the class and the discussions that take place regarding agriculture.

Mr. Converse asked what our vulnerability is in the drop in milk prices. Mr. Matteson said the expectation of low prices will last throughout the year in his opinion. He said that he is very responsive to the situation which is why the dairy profit team was created some time back. He said he constantly monitors what he can do, but indicated that it is a challenge at the local level. Mr. Matteson said that he will continue to try to bring in more dairy processing and said that the North Country is one of the best places to make milk!

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. Counsel: None.

X. New Business:

1. Strategic Planning – Board Member Gardner said that he was asked by Mr. Alexander to take a leadership role to develop a strategic plan about how to go forward. He indicated that he has accepted the role and noted that it will not be compensated. He said that he would like to develop an economic snapshot which includes biopsies on previous initiatives to see what we have done that has worked and what hasn't. His plan is to work with Staff to put together two documents that will then go to board members. He plans to have draft documents available by early April.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Aliasso, seconded by Mr. Burto. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.