

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2022**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held their board meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2022 in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

**Present:**, Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., W. Edward Walldroff, Paul Warneck, Lisa L'Huillier, David Converse

**Zoom:** John Jennings, Kent Burto, Gregory Gardner, Christine Powers, Rob Aiken, William Johnson

**Excused:** None, **Absent:** None

**Also Present (Zoom):** Justin Miller, Esq., Craig Fox (Watertown Daily Times)

**Staff Present:** David Zembiec, Marshall Weir, Lyle Eaton, Peggy Sampson, Jay Matteson

**I. Call to Order:** Chairman Aliasso called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Privilege of the Floor:** Chairman Aliasso invited guests to speak. No one spoke.

**IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held January 6, 2022 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Converse, seconded by Mr. Jennings. All in favor. Carried.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Warneck reviewed the financials for the period ending January 31, 2022. He said that the books haven't been moved over yet, so it's hard to make a projection without the new budget. Mr. Eaton said that he has an upcoming phone meeting with Sage to contract with them so they can make the conversion because we don't know what will happen if we do it in house. He noted that we can't lose the stub period since it will be audited with the next audit cycle.

Mr. Warneck said that LCO Destiny is one month behind and shows a maturity date of July 1, 2022. Mr. Eaton said that while they are slow to pay, we stay in touch. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Ms. Powers. All in favor. Carried.

**VI. Committee Reports:** None.

**VII. Council Reports:**

**a. Ag –** Mr. Matteson distributed his January 2022 report. He updated the board on the following topics:

- Farmworker wage commission recommendations – Mr. Matteson said that he is concerned with the recommendations (overtime currently at 60 hours and changing to 40 hours). He said that farms can't increase their product prices and noted that we are at a huge competitive disadvantage. He said that he will be meeting with the Ag Council on Tuesday to learn more and discuss possible actions to take to Farm Bureau.

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- Farmworker safety and housing grant – Mr. Matteson said that he is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension for a grant opportunity for farms to improve their workers housing. He said that DANC will fill out the CDBG application and noted that they also have a financing program as an alternative to the CDBG.
  - Food resiliency grants – Mr. Matteson said that notices will be released soon of the availability of the grants to farms and small food processors in Jefferson County.
  - Ag conference – Mr. Matteson said the conference will be held on April 8, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn. He said that Sarah Tveidt from Aimpoint Research will be the keynote speaker. He also said that Matt Morris from ACO investments (Convall) will speak about adapting military planning to the civilian world.
  - Jay Matteson’s Rural America podcast – Mr. Matteson said that podcast replaces the Homegrown radio show and noted that it will roll out within the next two weeks. He said it will cover Ag, rural issues, and economic development.
  - Decommissioning of solar projects – Mr. Matteson said that he continues to work on providing recommendations. He said that last night at the Farm Bureau meeting, the Jefferson County Soil and Water’s new executive director informed him that they would be willing to contract with municipalities and landowners to be the environmental monitor. He said that he feels this is the best option and it will go into the recommendations.
- b. Manufacturing** – Mr. Zembiec said that we have been working with Lewis County to host the Jefferson-Lewis manufacturing forum that will be held in Carthage at Zero Dock Street on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Marketing** – Mr. Weir reported that he continues to market with WPBS, NPR, Watertown Daily Times, the local AM station (when necessary), Spectrum, NBC 50 and Drum Country.

**VIII. Unfinished Business:** None.

**IX. Counsel:** None.

**X. New Business:**

- 1. Resolution No. 02.03.2022.01 for Contract for Ag Conference Speaker** – A request to enter into a contract with Aimpoint Research for \$3,000 plus a maximum of \$2,000 for expenses for a keynote speaker for the ag conference to be held on April 8, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The speaker’s presentation will focus on ‘Farmer of the Future’. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. L’Huillier. All in favor. Carried.
- 2. Child Care Development Program Memorandum of Agreement** – Mr. Zembiec said we approved \$24,000 for the home-based childcare program last year that had 8 graduates and created 60-64 childcare slots. He said the proposed agreement is the same program, just beefed up. Mr. Zembiec said the request is for \$35,000 to contribute to the program. He said

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the other program participants are Jefferson Community College, Community Action Planning Council, and County of Lewis. He noted that there are 37 interested in the program so far. Mr. Zembiec said that we are waiting for funds from the County to put toward the program but recommended approval regardless of County funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Walldroff to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, seconded by Mr. Warneck. All in favor. Carried.

- XI. Adjournment:** With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warneck, seconded by Ms. L'Huillier. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Sampson*

**JEFFERSON COUNTY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**Resolution Number 02.03.2022.01**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR AG CONFERENCE SPEAKER**

**WHEREAS,** A request to approve a \$3,000 contract with a maximum amount of \$2,000 for expenses for the Ag Annual Meeting to be held on April 8, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Board of Directors of the Jefferson County Local Development Corporation that it herein approves the request, and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and/or Chief Executive Officer or his designee are authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.



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David J. Zembiec  
CEO