



Mitchell County Economic Development Commission

PO BOX 306 | 212 South Fifth Street | Osage, Iowa | 50461

Meeting Minutes: June 30, 2025

The Board of Directors for the MCEDC met in regular session on June 30, 2025, in person.

Board members present: Todd Frein, Roger Hemann, Randy Marcks, Brock Waters, and Nathan Kinter. Staff present: Jenny Backer and Kayla Zimmerman. Guests: Sam Heimer and Dave Fox.

Todd Frein called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Frein then introduced our new board member Nathan Kinter and welcomed them on.

Motion made by Marcks to approve the agenda; second by Waters, all ayes, motion passed. Motion made by Hemann to approve June 2, 2025, meeting minutes, second by Marcks, all ayes, passed.

Backer reported that the May financial report and June expense report were not yet available from Murphy, Coe, & Smith, but reported nothing out of the ordinary for expenses for the month.

Director Backer reported attendance to council meetings to formally remove St. Ansgar from 28E agreement. Backer is monitoring Statewide Solutions Fund information to determine grant opportunities. There was an opportunity for attendance at the check presentation from Dairyland to Osage Economic Development that Backer was able to attend.

Frein mentioned support of Director Backer's letter in support of the Bitcoin Farm proposal made and Backer provided additional details to the board including Simple Mining's new proposed infrastructure, \$10,000 proposed payment in lieu of taxes and estimated one-million-dollar project where Simple Mining proposes to use Mitchell County Contractors.

MCEDC Marketing Assistant Zimmerman reported work on marketing for childcare enhancement program and material for Mitchell County Fair. Zimmerman attended the NIRHA and FEMC meetings. She began prep for the 2025 grant cycle for FEMC. Zimmerman stayed on top of website updates, invoicing, and payments.

Director Baker reported on the status of the 28E Agreement signatures needed to amend the removal of St. Ansgar and will need three more signatures. There was a letter from October 2021 brought to her attention pertaining to the withdrawal then, but suggested cities still pay their dues. However, St. Ansgar states they cannot afford the dues.

Heimer points out that many aren't aware of programs and makes suggestions to provide applications to city clerks in one packet to provide some additional opportunity for program knowledge or to ask questions.

Waters mentions the difficulty of not keeping programs available for everyone. Backer confirmed the legality of removing programs or adding administrative fee to applications with the attorney. Frein brings up questions of St. Ansgar EDC paying the dues, which leads into discussion of St. Ansgar representation. Marcks will discuss dues paid by St. Ansgar EDC and follow up by the next meeting. It was decided to table the discussion until further information is received.

Director Backer provided possible program options. Frein suggests tabling this discussion as well until they learn more from St. Ansgar EDC.

Director Backer mentioned a booth will be set up at the county fair for MCEDC and the board shared approval with the idea.

Director Backer provided the budget amendment needed for 2025 and discussed what changes were made. Motion to approve the budget amendment made by Waters and second by Marcks. All Ayes.

Backer provided details of the Homeward application and explained the program must be run through an EDC group. Motion to approve the application pending proof of irrevocable credit letter by Waters and second by Marcks. All ayes. Motion passes.

Backer recognizes members Sam Heimer and Mark Jensen for their years of service on board. Heimer thanks Backer and appreciates the mission of MCEDC.

Public comment allows Heimer to ask about the childcare program. Backer mentions year 3 will begin in July 2026. Backer plans to see the state's plans for possible match and then trying to collect more pledges.

Frein adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Signed: Todd Frein Title: VICE-CHAIR Date: 7/28/25
Printed Name: Todd FREIN Printed Title: _____

Signed: Jenny Backer Title: Exec Director Date: 7-28-25
Printed Name: Jenny Backer Printed Title: EXEC DIRECTOR