



MINUTES  
COHASSET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
305 NW FIRST AVENUE, COHASSET, MN 55721  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order:** EDA President Andy MacDonell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

**Present:** EDA Members President Andy MacDonell, Rod Heller, Conrad Feldt, Larry Gemmill, and Mitch Kellin.

**Absent with Notice:** EDA Member Andy Haarklau, Shannon Benolken and Max Peters with notice.

**Others:** None

3. **Approve Agenda**

**Additions:** None

**Deletions:** None

*A motion was made by EDA member Conrad Feldt to approve the agenda as written. EDA member Rod Heller seconded the motion. Voting in favor: EDA Members Rod Heller, Conrad Feldt, Larry Gemmill and Mitch Kellin; Voting against: None; Absent: EDA member Shannon Benolken, Andy Haarklau, and Max Peters.*

4. **Resident Input:** None

5. **Itasca Economic Development Corporation Update**

Tamara Lowney President of Itasca Economic Development presented the annual contribution and funding update. Rob Sjostrand is the Director of Business Development working with local small businesses. Recently IEDC was rewarded a state grant that will allow IEDC to hire a third fulltime business consultant, which will allow them to provide more services to local small businesses. Since the pandemic, the amount of help IEDC has been providing to the community has quadrupled compared to pre-pandemic. During the crisis, IEDC provided tons of hands on outreach services to the local communities, such as building loan programs, a grant program written for the county and delivered the program to the county. A strategic plan is in place to reinforce the pillars IEDC stands for. The free services that IEDC provides are a small business development center, free services education, financial assistance among others that allows them to operate as a 501C3. IEDC has some funding coming from Itasca County, City of Cohasset and City of Grand Rapids. Local funding partners include Nelson Wood Shims, many local small businesses, and MN Power. Grants supply funding for IEDC to assist the community. The focus currently with Cohasset, Itasca Economic Development, Itasca County, IRRR, Partners of MN Power, Apex and Leech Lake Band coming together around energy transition. Tamara wrote a grant in partnership with the Center on Energy in the Environment, Great Plains Institute, and Northspan to conduct a yearlong outreach in the area around energy transition. This is focused on education, strategy, and becoming equipped to reach for better funding opportunities. The goal is to create a collaborative plan to pursue large funding opportunities related to energy transition. Small business development center is a nationwide program that offers free business

consulting services. This ranges from business startup to the selling of a business. There is a lot of interest in this community of people wanting to start new things. There is also a lot of business transition happening in the community including retirement or startup businesses. IEDC’s offerings have expanded, in January they are launching a revolving loan fund. IEDC is hosting a housing summit and a workforce summit in 2024 to promote the community and the county to draw in people and businesses.

Discussion was held on the sixty acres that IEDC owns in Cohasset and about what their potential plans are for that location.

**6. Approve the October 3, 2023 EDA Minutes**

*A motion was made by EDA member Larry Gemmill to approve the October 3, 2023 EDA minutes as presented. EDA member Mitch Kellin seconded the motion. Voting in favor: EDA members Rod Heller, Conrad Feldt, Larry Gemmill and Mitch Kellin; Voting against: None; Absent: EDA member Shannon Benolken, Andy Haarklau, and Max Peters.*

**7. EDA Financials**

- A. August Financials: \$429,168.38**
- B. September Financials: \$429,349.02**
- C. October Financials: \$427,018.70**
- D. Loan Recap**

The August EDA Financials, September EDA Financials and October EDA Financials were discussed briefly.

**8. Miscellaneous Business and FYIs:**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

<b>2023 ATTENDANCE CHART</b>												
	<b>1/3/23</b>	<b>2/7/23</b>	<b>3/7/23</b>	<b>4/4/23</b>	<b>5/4/23</b>	<b>6/6/23</b>	<b>7/4/23</b>	<b>8/1/23</b>	<b>9/5/23</b>	<b>10/3/23</b>	<b>11/21/23</b>	<b>12/5/22</b>
<b>Andy MacDonell</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	EA	P	
<b>Larry Gemmill</b>	P	P	EA	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	
<b>Conrad Feldt</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	
<b>Max Peters</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	EA	
<b>Rod Heller</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	
<b>Andy Haarklau</b>	P	P	EA	P	EA	EA	NM	P	EA	EA	EA	
<b>Mitch Kellin</b>	-	-	-	P	p	EA	NM	P	P	EA	P	
<b>Shannon Benolken</b>	-	-	-	P	P	P	NM	P	EA	P	EA	
<b>P: Present      EA: Excused Absence      UA: Unexcused Absence      NM: No Meeting</b>												

Submitted by: Assoc. Deputy Clerk Treasurer Alyssa Borchers  
 Approved:1/2/2024