



SIREPA

SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL ECONOMIC & PORT AUTHORITY

Minutes of the SIREPA Board of Directors
Thursday, December 1, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
In-Person at KL Megla Building or via Zoom
2495 280th St, Montrose, IA

I. **Call to Order** at 1:32 p.m. by Denise Boyer, Chair

Roll Call:

Members Present: Director Denise Boyer (Chair); Director Mike Hickey (Vice Chair); Director Michael Dunn (Secretary/Treasurer); Director Bob Dodds; Director Bruce Hardy; Garry Seyb, Ex-Officio; Rick Larkin, Ex-Officio; Matt Larson, Ex-Officio via Zoom

Members Absent: Director Jack Smith

SEIRPC Staff Present: Mike Norris; Zach James and Sherri Jones via Zoom

Guest(s) Present: Chuck Vandenberg, Pen City Current; Tim Fencl, Danville Mutual Telephone Company; Kay Sackville, Alliant Energy, via Zoom

II. **Consider Approval of Agenda (Board Action):**

Hardy made a motion to approve the December 1, 2022, meeting agenda, second by Dunn. All ayes, motion carried.

III. **Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes and Financials (Board Action):**

Dunn made a motion to approve the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes and receive financials, second by Hickey. All ayes, motion carried.

IV. **Lee County Broadband Expansion Update (Board Information):**

Norris said the Lee County Broadband Expansion Project is in progress and working towards a March, 2023 construction start date. Tim Fencil, Danville Mutual Telephone Company, gave an expansion map explanation.

V. USDA BEAD Broadband Opportunity (Board Information):

Norris made board members aware of the federal BEAD funding which will go to all 50 states. To apply for BEAD funding, an Intent to Qualify (ITQ) needs to be submitted to the Iowa Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Timelines aren't known yet and SIREPA staff is keeping up with changes. The funding will be used to bring broadband to unserved or underserved areas. The Lee County Broadband Project is serving all currently known unserved areas, so any future service to unserved areas will be done through new information provided by the Iowa OCIO.

VI. SIREPA Building/Career Advantage Center Update (Board Information):

Norris said the building partnership with Lee County Economic Development Group is going well. All 8th and 9th grade students from Keokuk, Fort Madison, and Central Lee school districts are welcome at The Career Advantage Center (CAC). The CAC uses Lee County businesses and industries to lead short educational sessions featuring their individual technology and processes. In turn, the sessions expose businesses' technologies and related jobs. Norris reviewed businesses in the building and said SIREPA should consider how to promote PV Pallet growth on the building campus. SIREPA staff have had informal conversations with LCEDG staff about potential project ideas.

VII. Matters from the Floor (Board Information):

VIII. Adjourn (Board Action):

Hickey made a motion to adjourn at 2:29 p.m., second by Boyer. All ayes, motion carried.