

**Coloma Watervliet Area Economic Development Corporation  
Minutes of the July 5, 2007**

Members Present	Representing	Apr	May	June 7, 21	July 5, 19	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cindy Aviles	Coloma Twp	X	X	XX	XX								
Robin Jollay	Coloma Twp	X	X	X	X								
Barb Schofield	Watervliet City		X	XX	X								
Olive Grady	Watervliet City	X	X	X	X								
Jim Polashak	Coloma City	X	X	X									
Chuck Owen	Coloma City	X	X	XX	XX								
Vick Kinzler	Watervliet Twp	X	X	X	X								
Dan Hutchins	Watervliet Twp		X	X	XX								
Sandy Kraemer	Chamber	X	X	X	XX								
Jerry Jollay	Bainbridge	X	X	X	X								
Butch Jarvis	Hagar Twp	X	X	XX	X								

**Others Present:** Cindy LaGrow and Chana Kniebes

**Call to Order & Pledge:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Aviles at 5:30 p.m. in the CWAEDC conference room.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Planning Grant Update:** Cindy LaGrow from LaGrow Consulting gave the board an update on the planning grant for the I-94 Corridor between Watervliet and Hartford. There is a USDA approved loan for \$20,000 already and the state could match that amount. The study would see how to best use the land between M-140 and Exit 46 to attract potential developers. The study would help determine infrastructure costs, listings of grant sources and use the study that was done in the past by the Anderson Group to take the components of the specific areas of Watervliet and Hartford and see how best the 2,600 acres can be marketed. This study would also be a way to strategically plan for development as there are not many other acres that are vacant and available to develop in Watervliet Township. LaGrow commented the City of Watervliet is in a budget crunch and each municipality involved is putting funds toward the project. Because they would not want to exclude the city from participating would CWAEDC be willing to contribute any amount to the project. This amount would also be matched by the state. Owen expressed concerns that even if the study is funded who will drive the plan to fruition. He commented that in the past that was what has stopped many good plans and studies from being driven forward. The deadline for the funds to be spent is December 31st 2007 so action on a contribution would need to be done soon. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultants recently went out and on August 13<sup>th</sup> consultants will be interviewed. After discussion Aviles said the request for a contribution from CWAEDC would be tabled until a full board is present.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Kinzler and supported by Schofield to accept the minutes from June 7th, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

**Finance Committee:** Schofield went over the finance report for the month of June. A motion was made by Kinzler and supported by Schofield to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$6,097.59 for the month of June as presented. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion carried. Schofield also shared that because we have had additional Strategic Planning meetings than were originally planned for, we may have to spend more funds on the process.

**Chamber Report:** The next chamber meeting will be on July 10th at 12 noon at the Friendly.

**Circus:** Kraemer shared that the chamber will hold the Kelly Miller Circus at the Watervliet Airport on Friday August 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 shows and children's tickets are already on sale by the marketer from the circus. There will be more information at the next meeting.

**Education at Lunch:** Rick Warner will be doing an educational piece on hiring and applications. The date is July 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. upstairs at the Friendly. The cost is \$5.00 and includes lunch.

**PR & Marketing:** The Golf Outing was a success with \$3,560 of profit raised. There were over 60 prize packages awarded and thank you cards went out to sponsors and raffle prize donators the week after the golf event. This is our

best year ever. We were down as far as golfers but the sponsorship was at 16. All in all a great event. A press release and golf picture is included in the packets. Next year it may be prudent to raise the price for the golfers as the cost from the course has risen as well as the cost of lunches.

**Coordinator's Report Highlights: (Full Report on File)**

**Updates:** Kniebes highlighted her report for the board.

**Parade of Homes:** The CWAEDC and the CWACC will be involved with the July 26<sup>th</sup> Parade of Homes Sneak Preview Party. The location this year will be in the River Oaks Subdivision off of Lewis Street in Watervliet. This is a great opportunity to showcase our area and promote our organizations. The event will be from 5-7 p.m. and will be at no cost to our organizations but we will be listed on the tri-fold brochure that promotes the event.

**Website:** The Chamber will have John Ruder from Genesis Web Design give them a presentation about the possibility of updating the website at the next chamber meeting.

**Next Businesses:** Kniebes commented that the new Tivolacci's Barber Shop recently opened and looks great on the inside and when a welcome basket was delivered she also gave them information on the DDA's Façade Improvement Loan Program as they look forward to improving the exterior of the building in the future.

The new funeral home in Coloma recently had their Open House and a Welcome basket was also delivered there and a tour completed. The facility is very beautiful inside and out and a wonderful asset to the community.

Several requests for information on when the new Ramada Inn will be opening come into the office each week but a specific date of opening has not been finalized.

**Chair Report:**

**Strategic Planning:** The next meeting for the six municipal leaders and a few key people of the community that have ties to the local school boards has been set for July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Coloma Township Hall at 5:30 p.m. The group of individuals for this next meeting can hopefully engage the community to get on board for future meetings as they are connected to the school and or business. Food will be provided by Watervliet Township for this meeting.

**Community Updates:** Aviles asked if any municipality had anything they would like to share.

The City of Watervliet has an ongoing water project and the City Hall building is having some remodeling due to termite damage. The old façade of a fire station will be maintained. The Watervliet Independence Celebration was a success with many activities for the whole family.

Coloma Township Hall has halted their remodeling until legal issues are resolved.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Kinzler and supported by Jarvis to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Jollay Secretary,

Chana Kniebes Recording Secretary