

Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
Veterans Memorial Highway Association
held Friday, September 23rd, 2011
Royal Canadian Legion Taber Branch #20
Taber, Alberta

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 P.M. by Chairman Barry Morishita.

Board Members

In Attendance:	Barry Morishita	City of Brooks
	George Jamiesen	County of Minburn
	Arnold Hanson	Beaver County
	Molly Douglass	County of Newell
	Sonny Rajoo	Town of Two Hills
	Charles Girard	Town of Hanna
Absent:	Elroy Yakemchuk	County of Two Hills
	Ben Elfring	M. D. of Taber
	Peter Kirylchuk	Lac La Biche County
Administration:	Michael Yakielashek	Secretary – Treasurer
Guests:	Walter Valentini	Palliser Economic Partnership
	Roger Cole	Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor
Agenda:	Moved BY: Arnold Hanson	Seconded By: Charles Girard
	That the agenda be adopted as presented.	

Carried Unanimously:

Page – 2 –
Board of Directors Meeting
September 23rd, 2011

Alberta Eastern
Trade Corridor
Project:

Chairman Morishita called upon Mr. Valentini and Mr. Cole to make their presentation to the Board.

Mr. Valentini wanted to inform the Board of a project being undertaken by the three regional economic development groups, namely Palliser Economic Partnership, Battle River Alliance for Economic Development and Northeast Regional Economic Development. The project is a cooperative effort to increase awareness, investment attraction and gather the capacity of communities in the Eastern Corridor of the Province.

Mr. Cole stated work will be done to attract foreign investment and working with industry to seek out possible investment. Highway 36 is an integral part of the corridor and they want VMHA to participate in the upcoming investment sessions scheduled for November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2011. Mr. Valentini stated that the Association needs to support and work together to make the utmost of the project to attract investment. Mr. Cole will be undertaking the project which will include working with Ports to Plains Alliance, municipalities, industry and various associations. We need to align the messaging from everyone to increase awareness of the Eastern Corridor of the Province, promote the expansion of the Wild Horse Border Crossing and source the goods and services which travel north and south. Mr. Valentini feels that the Investment Sessions will outline what work has to be done, who they will deal with and the sharing of information between the areas. They want VMHA to be part of this process. Mr. Cole stated that all regions with their participation can identify areas of development and investment.

Chairman Morishita thanked Mr. Valentini and Mr. Cole for their presentation and the Board will discuss the project. Mr. Valentini and Mr. Cole left the meeting at 1:16 P.M.

Page – 3 –
Board of Directors Meeting
September 23rd, 2011

Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 24th, 2011 Board Meeting.

Moved By: Sonny Rajoo Seconded By: Molly Douglass
That the minutes of the June 24th, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Financials: The Secretary – Treasurer presented the Financial Reports to the Board. Accounts Payable Listing dated September 23rd, 2011. Cash Statements for the months ended June 30th, July 31st, and August 31st, 2011. Operational Budget Control Reports for June 30th, July 31st and August 31st, 2011.

Expenses

Secretary

Treasurer:

Moved By: Sonny Rajoo Seconded By: Arnold Hanson
That the Secretary – Treasurer be paid mileage at a rate of \$0.50 per kilometre for attending Board of Directors meetings, Zone meetings or Annual meetings which are held at a location other than at Castor, Alberta.

Carried Unanimously:

Moved By: Arnold Hanson Seconded By: Charles Girard
That the Financial Reports presented by the Secretary – Treasurer be approved and accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Ports to Plains: The draft report being prepared by Donna Davis for the Ports to Plains Alliance on economic development has not been received to date.

Page – 4 –
Board of Directors Meeting
September 23rd, 2011

- Non-Members: The Board discussed municipalities or organizations which are not participating in the Association. Board Members are to contact these organizations within their zones and talk about membership and participation. Municipalities or First Nations which are within 25 kilometres east or west of Highway 36 will be contacted.
- Membership
Invoices: The Secretary – Treasurer informed the Board that membership invoices will be mailed out within the next few weeks.
- Foreign Direct
Investment: Further to Mr. Valentini and Mr. Coles’ presentation the Board decided that the Association will participate in the scheduled investment strategy sessions and that Board Members attend the meetings within their areas.
- RADF: The Secretary – Treasurer was instructed to continue with the Rural Development Fund application. In order for VMHA to fund it’s portion of the project membership fees would have to increase to \$1.00 per capita for two years.
- Southern Zone
Meeting: The Board discussed the Southern Zone Meeting. The meeting was a success with good exchange of information coming forward. The Board agreed that the holding of Zone Meetings will continue.
- AGM The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held mid to late January, 2012. Chairman Morishito will contact all organizations and municipalities by letter.

Page – 5 –
Board of Directors Meeting
September 23rd, 2011

Strategic Plan

Review: The Board reviewed the various projects outlined in the Strategic Plan.

- Governance - work is getting done on communications and Board organization.
- Assessment & Evaluation - not completed and work is ongoing.
- Advocacy - concentrated on talking with MLAs and Department Officials about VMHA. Continue to get members involved.
- Infrastructure: - Zone meetings being held to address areas on Highway 36 which need work.
- Website: - check website for links to the Regional Economic Associations such as PEPS, BRAED and HUB.
- Legion: - continue to work on the idea of Honouring local area veterans along the Highway.
- Need to contact Legion Command about the idea.
- Roadside Turnouts - investigate the road side turnout and rest area development along Highway 36.

Zone Meetings: The Board will hold a Central Zone Meeting to continue to keep the communications between the Board and members open.

Next Meeting: The Central Zone Meeting and Board Meeting will be held on December 2nd, 2011 commencing at 10:00 A.M. in Castor, Alberta

Page – 6 –
Board of Directors Meeting
September 23rd, 2011

Adjournment: Moved By: Barry Morishita that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously:

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Chairman

Secretary - Treasurer