



**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alan Neuner, John Uehling (via Zoom), James Pachuki, Justin Ross, Jeb Stotter, Leslie Temple, Dan Knorr, Sam Schiccatano, Dave Park, Jennifer Wakeman, Susan McGarry, Joe Kantz, Trevor Finn, Chris Young (via Zoom)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jeff Reber

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Karen Hackman (RHP Law Group legal counsel), Harold Hurst (Director Emeritus), Tiffany Bienkowski (First Keystone Community Bank), Tim Hippensteel (Project Manager), Amanda Craig Bradley (Business Outreach Manager), Aidan McDonald (Facilities Manager), Amanda Schell (Administrative Assistant).

The meeting was called to order by Jeb Stotter at 8:32am.

Introductions were made around the room for DRIVE's newest Board member, Jeff Erdly.

Jeb Stotter asked for public comment on agenda items. Hearing none, he proceeded to the meeting's agenda items.

**MINUTES:**

Susan McGarry noted that the March 2022 meeting minutes should be changed to reflect Al Neuner as the current Board Secretary.

- March 2022 Board Meeting: Motion by Joe Kantz to accept the minutes, Leslie Temple seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dan Knorr presented the Treasurer's Report, noting ongoing office renovation expenses but no other income or expenditures of significance.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Al Neuner, seconded by Susan McGarry; carried unanimously.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Jennifer Wakeman reported that the past month has been extremely busy, with numerous events in support of regional economic development and entrepreneurship on the calendar. Focus Central PA and DRIVE held a rail familiarization tour on March 22 with more than 20 participants touring 8 sites in our immediate area. Also, the Focus Central PA Industrial Development Forum had 315 people in attendance at Susquehanna University. Board members Dave Park, Joe Kantz, and Justin Ross echoed the success of the event from a participant perspective.

Wakeman then reported on her and Tim Hippensteel's recent attendance at the PA Economic Development Association spring conference, noting the importance of networking with folks in the field and also DCED. She continued with the recent announcement that DRIVE was named a Central PA Business Journal Innovation Collaboration award winner for our broadband project.

Jennifer introduced Amanda Craig Bradley, who gave an update on her recent efforts growing DRIVE's social media presence. She provided details on increased engagement on Twitter and Facebook, and noted recent PREP visits as well.

The office building renovation project continues, with expected completion by early May. Wakeman noted issues of The Daily Item's Valley of Progress from March at everyone's seat, as well as a press release on Project Ocean Wave. She updated that the project involves the company Encina, who have selected a site in Point Township to invest \$1.1B to construct a plastics recycling facility. A brief conversation ensued with questions and answers about the process Encina will use for this. Wakeman estimated full employment to be 300 by 2025.

### **Broadband Committee**

Trevor Finn updated that the Broadband Committee recently met with Conxx, Columbia County IT, and BIG to discuss BIG's proposed network analysis. BIG has sent an RFI to Conxx in conjunction with this analysis. Finn introduced a draft Network Management Agreement between DRIVE and Conxx but noted that several changes will need to be made before it would be finalized.

A discussion ensued about the draft, with Trevor Finn tabling the topic until draft revisions can be completed.

Tim Hippensteel reported that the Bucknell Consulting Club has provided some potential names and logos for the network and the committee will continue to work on this.

Last, Finn gave updated numbers on network connections, reporting 331 current customers and Conxx adding staff to increase their capacity to connect customers.

## Old Business

Jeb Stotter asked if there was any old business to address. Joe Kantz reported that he recently presented DRIVE broadband network information at the Snyder County Commissioners meeting.

## New Business

Jeb Stotter inquired if there was any new business to address. Hearing none, he moved the meeting to Executive Session at 9:28am to discuss a real estate transaction.

The Executive Session ended at 10:03am.

*Motion to authorize Jennifer Wakeman to pursue financing and due diligence on two properties in conjunction with Project Ocean Wave made by Dan Knorr, seconded by Jim Pachuki; carried unanimously.*

At 10:04am Jeb Stotter made a motion to adjourn.

**NEXT MEETING:** The DRIVE Board meets again on May 5, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at 418 Railroad Street, Danville

Respectfully Submitted,

A Neuner, Secretary