

## DRIVE Board Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2017

**Present:** Greg Cole, Dr. John DeFinnis, Lance Diehl, Trevor Finn, Harold Hurst, Teri MacBride, Al Neuner, Matt Prosseda, Dr. David Soltz, Jennifer Wakeman (Executive Director), Chris Young

**Absent:** Susan McGarry

The meeting was held at 114 Woodbine Lane, Suite 103, Danville and called to order by Dr. John DeFinnis, board chairman, at 8:05 a.m. He welcomed guests in attendance: Columbia County commissioner Rich Ridgway, Karen Blackledge (Daily Item), Don Kiel and Pete Smeltz, Natural Gas Cooperative, Bob Snyder.

**Minutes:** The minutes from May 3, 2017 were accepted without correction. *Motion by Harold and seconded by Trevor. Motion carried.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Matt reviewed the May financial statements. May balance sheet shows a cash balance of \$222,889. Contributions were received from PPL and First Keystone. Expenses totaled \$1,261.24.

*A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Harold, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.*

**Executive Director Report:** Jennifer presented a report on activities in May. She introduced Deirdre Galvin, part-time administrative assistant. She noted that Teri and Dave are retiring from the board and this will be their last meeting.

Jennifer asked board members to follow DRIVE Industry on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and check out the website, [www.driveindustry.com](http://www.driveindustry.com) She did some work on Search Engine Optimization and will also be adding links to other resources in order to boost traffic to the site.

Strategic planning is under way – a small group has met to pull together information already generated toward a strategic plan. When we have a draft, it will be presented to the board for discussion.

CMVB – Marketing committee met Monday, June 5. Group is making progress on a plan for the travel guide and ways to provide value to members by expanding the offerings and options for marketing...laying the foundation for 2018 when membership will not be the focus.

Jennifer and Trevor attended Plastics tour at Penn College with North Shore, JRA to learn about their program (one of only five in the world) and how it could benefit potential businesses since PA is primed for an influx of plastics companies.

Also attended the following meetings:

- Dan Knorr from Bloomsburg University/External & Govt Relations – member Chamber of Commerce
- CCIDA & Alliance meeting
- Mary Radle of Key Realty to examine properties that may be of interest to incoming businesses.
- Industrial Development Forum (Focus Central PA)
- Meetings with local businesses re: opportunities for growth, investment, and support

Upcoming Meetings:

- MD&M East June 14 NYC– the largest medtech event on the east coast, connecting with thousands of engineers and executives, as well as hundreds of leading suppliers. June 14, free!
- NEARS – North East Association of Rail Shippers...logistics professionals, shippers, railroaders etc.

Jennifer agreed to include in each board meeting packet a list highlighting the availability of land and commercial property for lease or sale in the Columbia-Montour region.

**New Business:**

Don Kiel and Pete Smeltz, representing SEDA COG's Natural Gas Cooperative, made a presentation to the board. Typically, membership counties contribute \$20,000 and receive two seats on the board. However, they stated that since DRIVE incorporates two counties, it may be possible to secure a combined membership (therefore lowering the cost per county). The co-op now consists of Centre, Clinton, Mifflin, and Perry counties.

They are prioritizing locations – one is the power plant in Washingtonville. Each entity (i.e. county or organization) that joins is guaranteed to have at least one project happen. Virtual Pipelines (using trailers to deliver a gas supply) are a way to assist companies without access to natural gas pipelines.

Chris said he would like DRIVE to become involved, and he will take this information to the Columbia County Commissioners. Trevor said he also is interested in the proposal, and asked for additional information such as the bylaws of the Natural Gas Co-op. The board expressed its interest in participating in the cooperative, but would prefer that DRIVE be allowed to join rather than the individual counties.

**Resignations:**

Teri MacBride and David Soltz are retiring and therefore announced their resignations from the board. Trevor made a motion to accept these two resignations with regret; Matt gave the second and the motion passed.

**Next Meeting:** The DRIVE board meets again on Wednesday, July 5 at 8 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Deirdre Galvin, DRIVE Administrative Assistant – [info@driveindustry.com](mailto:info@driveindustry.com)