

Emery County Economic Opportunity (CEO) Board

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m.

Emery County Courthouse, Commission Conference Room
75 East Main Street, Castle Dale, Utah 84513

In Attendance:

Board Members: Nicole Steele (virtual), Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Laren Huntsman, Brock Johansen, Patsy Stoddard

Others: Jade Powell, Commissioner Keven Jensen, Natalie Olsen, Jan Olsen, Maegan Crosland

Meeting called to order at 3:35 pm.

1. Welcome - Nicole Steele

Commissioner Jordan Leonard welcomed everyone to the Emery County Economic Opportunity Board meeting and explained that he would be chairing the meeting since Chairwoman Nicole Steele was participating via Google Meets.

2. Discuss/Approve/Deny - County Economic Opportunity Board Meeting December 20, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Jordan Leonard presented the minutes December 20, 2023, and asked if there were any corrections needed.

Laren Huntsman made a motion to approve the minutes. Brock Johansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny - Balances of Grant Funds

a. FY2022 - Part B Funds - Spent Out

Maegan Crosland, employee of Emery County, presented to the Emery CEO Board on the final report that was drafted for the FY2022 Part B Rural County Grant funds. Crosland presented that the remaining balance of \$12,500.00 in the grant was used to purchase equipment for the San Rafael Energy Research Center. This equipment included radiation detection equipment.

Brock Johansen made a motion to authorize Maegan Crosland to draft a letter on behalf of the Emery CEO board and approved the final report as presented. Laren Huntsman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. FY2023 - Part A Funds - \$52,500 Remaining

Jade Powell presented to the board the remaining balance of the previous year's Rural County Grant with a total of \$52,500. The board discussed putting aside \$20,000 to contribute to hiring a grant writer for Emery County through Southeastern Regional Development Agency (SERDA). Powell, who is the deputy director at SERDA, stated that the agency would be receptive to the project of hiring a grant writer but before committing to accepting the funds would like to have the Emery CEO board and/or Emery County Commission establish a scope of work for the funds.

The Emery CEO board also discussed the Business Improvement Grant program that Emery County Business Chamber manages utilizing Rural County Grant funds. Patsy Stoddard told the board that the program could use more funds to help more businesses.

Brock Johansen made a motion to contribute \$20,000 to the grant writer project and the remaining \$32,500 to be rolled into the Business Improvement Grant program. Laren Huntsman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. FY2024 - Part A Funds

Powell reported to the board that the projects approved for FY2024 were underway. This included the projects of; Energy Research Recruitment and Expansion for \$80,000; Business Improvement Grant Program for \$55,000 plus the now approved \$32,500; Junior Entrepreneurial Program for \$10,000. Powell stated that the other project approved for FY2024 was to hire economic development staff and personnel and stated that this project has not happened yet. There was discussion from the board around what to do with these funds. It was discussed by Brock Johansen that

these funds could be used to hire an economic development firm (also known as a "head hunter").

Nicole Steele made a motion to approve to proceed with using the remaining unspent funds to research an economic development firm. The motion was seconded by Brock Johansen. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discuss/Approve/Deny - Business Improvement Grant Program - Patsy Stoddard

Patsy Stoddard gave the board an update in regards to the Business Improvement Grant Program for 2024 and the successes the program is having.

5. Discuss/Approve/Deny - CEO Board Management - Jade Powell

Jade Powell presented to the Emery CEO board that he currently does not have an active contract with Emery County to provide the services of managing the Emery CEO board. Powell explained that is not within his duties at the Southeastern Regional Development Agency and does not manage any other CEO boards in the region. Powell also stated that this process began with the previous commission.

It was discussed that the Emery County Commission administrative assistants would provide the management of the Emery Rural County Grant Program and Powell would assist with the transition to ensure the assistants had all documentations and processes.

6. Other Business

Powell gave updates to the Emery CEO board in regards to two active technical assistance grants that Southeastern Regional Development Agency is undertaking. The first was ENERGYWERX which is providing a high-level economic impact analysis centered around the two coal burning power plants in Emery County. The second project is the Communities Local Energy Action Plan and Powell explained they were still undergoing negotiations with NREL on what the technical assistance would look like but stated that it would be focused around energy development such as nuclear and carbon capture.

7. Adjournment

Brock Johansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 pm. The motion was seconded by Laren Huntsman. The vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ **Date:** _____