

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2022**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held their board meeting on Thursday, August 4, 2022 in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

**Present:** Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., William Johnson, Paul Warneck, Lisa L’Huillier, Rob Aiken, Christine Powers, Gregory Gardner, David Converse, John Jennings, Kent Burto, W. Edward Walldroff

**Excused:** None

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Craig Fox (Watertown Daily Times), Ed Valentine (8:15 a.m.), Brendan Straub (Channel 7 News – 8:20 a.m.)

(Zoom): Justin Miller, Esq., Genevieve Trigg, Esq., PJ Simao (8:28 a.m.)

**Staff Present:** David Zembiec, Marshall Weir, Lyle Eaton, Peggy Sampson, Jay Matteson, Joy Nuffer

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Aliasso called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Privilege of the Floor:** Chairman Aliasso invited guests to speak. No one spoke.
- IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held July 7, 2022 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Converse. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer’s Report:** Mr. Warneck reviewed the financials for the period ending July 31, 2022. He noted a change in some of the line items related to the ARPA funds. He said that the two DiPrinzio loans have been brought current. Chairman Aliasso asked if staff is planning to amend the budget for the ARPA funds and the manufacturing council. Mr. Eaton said that minor adjustments to the budget that are explainable shouldn’t prompt an amendment. He said that adjustments can be made in the next budget cycle. The ARPA funds do not warrant a budget amendment because they are reflected in the balance sheet, not in the profit and loss statement. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Ms. Powers. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:** None.
- VII. Council Reports:**
  - a. Ag –** Mr. Matteson said that he continues to work on the food resiliency grants. He said that most of the contracts and insurance certificates have been returned, but noted that he is waiting on others.

Mr. Matteson said that our organization along with Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Thousand Islands Tourism Council are working together to revive the Agri-tourism committee to look at Agri-tourism in Jefferson County.

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Mr. Matteson said that he recently read a study that says the United States is losing 2,000 acres of prime farmland per day, which he noted is a growing concern. Chairman Aliasso said that he would like to see where Jefferson County is. Mr. Matteson said that prime farmland is being bought by foreign countries. Mr. Matteson noted that other than the decommissioning, there are no other policies in place to protect prime farmland. Mr. Warneck asked Mr. Matteson if he knows how much farmland is leased for production. Mr. Matteson said that he would have to look in to the 2017 Ag census.

Mr. Aiken said that Jay’s podcasts are well produced and very informative.

Mr. Matteson said that small farms are trying to get started, which he said is encouraging.

- b. Manufacturing** – Mr. Zembiec said that the committee is still recruiting businesses to participate in Manufacturing Day scheduled for 10/14/22. He said that the committee is working with Lewis County to bring manufacturers together for a workforce program this fall.
- c. Marketing** – Mr. Weir said that he will be participating in a mini Career Jam at Case Middle School today for their summer school kids. He said there will be between 8 and 10 businesses attending.

**VIII. Unfinished Business:**

- 1. Rental Property Deferred Maintenance Program Grants (ARPA)** – Mr. Weir went over some of the guidelines for this particular program. He said that the landlord must be a resident of Jefferson County, there will be one grant award per person, and the award will be up to 80% of the total project cost or a maximum of \$10,000. He said that he received several applications from people outside of Jefferson County. He noted that Reginald Schweitzer, who was on the review committee, abstained from recommending his project application.

Mr. Weir said that he and a review committee are recommending the following grants:

Kyle Pignone	\$10,000
James Huffman	\$5,600
Shannon Carmon	\$10,000
Mark Bonner	\$10,000
Scott Weston	\$10,000
Gerald Prout	\$8,000
Parker Smith	\$10,000
Tracy Strock	\$10,000
Beth Todd	\$10,000
Barry Kukowski	\$10,000
David Lawton	\$10,000
DeAnna LeTray	\$3,600
Christopher Knapp	\$10,000
John Ward	\$10,000
Joseph Carr	\$5,600
Michel Gravelle	\$9,600

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Derrick Kehoe	\$9,600
Yuri Samaroo	\$9,600
Stephen Rich	\$10,000
Joel Berthet	\$10,000
Herbert K. DeJourdan	\$8,000
Joseph LaFave	\$10,000
Terence Strock	\$10,000
Julie Kelly	\$8,000
Robert Augliano	\$10,000
Scott Gerni	\$8,000
Mary Dietterich	\$10,000
Yasmin Habib	\$10,000
John & Chana Fay	\$8,000
Patrick Merritt	\$10,000
Jeanette Pierce	\$10,000
Edward & Cindi Smalls	\$10,000
Steven Daily	\$10,000
Reginald Schweitzer Jr.	\$10,000
Valerie Deon	\$10,000
Bryan Olson	\$9,600
Merri Cole	\$10,000
William Bonner	\$10,000
Stephen McGowan	\$10,000
Arlene Martin	\$10,000
Lori Elliott	\$10,000
Deborah Wilson	<u>\$10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$393,200</b>

A motion was made by Mr. Aiken to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Jennings. All in favor, except for Mr. Converse who abstained since his company works with many of the applicants. Carried.

- 2. Small Business Productivity Improvement Grants (ARPA)** – Mr. Weir said there are two additional applications for this program.

Lucki7 Livestock Co.	\$10,000
Natasha’s Kiddie Shack Daycare	<u>\$10,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

A motion was made by Ms. Powers to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by Ms. L’Huillier. All in favor. Carried.

- 3. Incumbent Worker Training Grants (ARPA)** – Mr. Weir said there are two additional applications for this program.

Great Lakes Cheese	\$2,800
Thousand Islands Winery	<u>\$16,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>

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A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Converse. All in favor. Carried.

**4. Child care project update** – Mr. Zembiec provided the following update:

- Homebased daycare program - current cohort in training of 10 people
- Home daycare equipment program – provided \$10,762 in support to 16 homebased daycare providers
- Center based daycare assistance – provided retention funding for 99 fulltime and 14 parttime positions and provided funding for 6 new fulltime and 2 new parttime positions.

**IX. Counsel:** None.

**X. New Business:** None.

**XI. Adjournment:** With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warneck, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Sampson*