

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
January 20, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Trail County EDC Conference Room and via Zoom

Present: Board members Ken Nesvig, David Knudsvig, AJ Andresen, Gary Nysveen, Cassie Braaten, Vicky Grothmann, Dawn Flaten, Mark Duncan, Ben Hershey, Dr. Brian Van Horn, Jami Hovet and Kurt Elliott. Also in attendance: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director and Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Andresen.

Introductions

Roundtable introductions

Additions to agenda

Short requested to add committee assignments to new business.

Secretary's report

Nysveen moved to approve the Dec. 16, 2025 minutes, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried. Knudsvig moved to approve the Dec. 29-30, 2025 email minutes, seconded by Braaten. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report/approve checks

Short gave an update on the status of outstanding grants from 2025. Hershey moved to approve the December 2025 treasurer's report, seconded by Duncan. Motion carried.

Murphy responded to questions about contract hours for additional bookkeeping assistance. Van Horn moved to approve the checks, seconded by Knudsvig. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

- Reviewed all the paperwork for TCEDC's loans – updated projections, made sure processes were standardized, etc. Wanted to make sure everything was up to date and that the office is being consistent with its clients. Murphy would like to get the business assistance committee together in the next few months and verify line by line that we're doing things consistently.
- Had a discussion with some EDND folks, including Lisa Rotvold from the Red River Regional Council about some things they're doing in their area with the Housing Incentive Fund grant. Homes built in the \$300K to \$350K range are now being sold without the HIF subsidy in Lakota, Larimore and Grafton. Murphy would like to take that model and apply it in Traill County. MPEDC has two outstanding HIF forgivable loans and they're going to start the bidding process for two homes. Hatton has one built and



TCEDC is trying to help get it sold. Hillsboro has funds set aside with Hillsboro EDC to do some housing starts. The starter home price is \$300K to \$325K or even \$350K, for approximately 1,300 to 1,700 square feet. The housing study also will help attract more builders.

- Continued discussions with Hillsboro Development to get construction started on the Red River Event Center (including Pifer’s Auction) ASAP as long as Nodak Electric’s financing is done, including a Phase 1 environmental study.
- Contacted cities about 2026 AARP grant. Cities are working on planning for lots of projects and Short said many are easy to frame within the grant guidelines.
- Continued working on a Goose River Brewing sale.
- Met with a manufacturer in Hillsboro looking to add some equipment; also working with state on this. The project would add jobs and is a necessary byproduct of tariffs because of inability to source materials.
- Helped publicize the Trails County housing study.
- Researched home rule charter for the county commission.
- Helped release info about various scam alerts.

Housing survey

See Executive Director’s report.

Portland rep

Still looking for one; would appreciate any recommendations.

Upcoming events update

The Trails County Community Showcase will be held at Siwek Lumber in Hillsboro on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. Cities will have space to set up and Murphy expects more builders this year.

The Trails County Career Expo and Job Fair will be Wednesday, March 18 at Mayville State from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Murphy currently is lining up schools.

Andresen asked for calendar reminders for these events.

Hovet then asked for an update on Riverview LLP. Murphy said the company still is building onsite; District 20 Rep. Mike Beltz sent photos recently. As far as Murphy knows, Riverview won’t be working in earnest at the most rapid rate that they can, and will be deploying assets first in Abercrombie due to “legal wrangling.”

Committee appointments

Andresen reviewed the following committee recommendations with Murphy and Short:

2026 Trail County Economic Development Commission Committees				
Executive Committee	Business Assistance Committee	Organizational Development Committee	Marketing Committee	Nominating Committee
X, Chair - AJ	X, Chair - Ben	X, Chair - David	X, Chair - Cassie	X, Chair - Gary
X - Vice Chair - Gary	X - Vicky	X - Ken	X - Brian	X - Portland TBD
X - Treasurer - Vicky	X - Dawn	X - Brian	X - Mark	X - Jami
X - Past President - Jami	X - AJ	X - Vicky	X - Jami	X - Mark
X - Previous Past President - Ben	X - Gary	X - Kurt	X - Dawn	X - Kurt
** Committee makeup to include 3 board officers and 2 at-large members	** Committee makeup to include Board Chair, 1 executive committee member and 1 non-executive			
Goal: Consult and advise Chairperson and Executive Director from time-to-time.	Goal: Promote and encourage business development and expansion in Trail County.	Goal: Consult and advise Executive Director on internal organizational development.	Goal: Consult and advise Executive Director on marketing.	Goal: Prepare board nominations for December meeting.

Braaten moved to approve the committee assignments, seconded by Grothmann. Motion carried.

Strategic plan planning with executive committee – set date

Murphy will set up a hybrid meeting on Feb. 17 at 4:30 p.m. Hovet asked about the city of Hillsboro’s recent strategic plan discussions. Murphy said he wasn’t sure if they were strategically planning or learning how to strategically plan and issues like housing and roads weren’t discussed. Nysveen said it “wasn’t a solving session.” Murphy said electrical infrastructure was addressed, likely because the sessions were led by Missouri River Energy Services.

Review of bylaws and policy documents with organizational committee – set date

Murphy will set up a hybrid meeting on March 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Board education

Self-educate; Murphy included some reading in the packet.

Community updates

- Duncan – No Hatton update.
- Flaten: Galesburg’s firemen’s supper had a good turnout.
- Elliott: County commission approved letter to a property owner explaining his rights. Moving forward with the next election for a home rule charter initiative. Deputy who works with the FBI and a task force with other counties explained how they’re getting drugs off the streets. Ordered a bunch of radios for the highway department because the tower is no longer usable.
- Nesvig: County commission is moving ahead with a home rule charter initiative and is putting together a plan. Fifteen counties in ND have home rule, although it’s “always a

Trails County EDC – January 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

hard sell.” Home rule would allow Trails County to levy fines for things like over-limit trucks, etc. to generate more revenue/

- Hovet: Beehive in Reynolds held a snowmobile run; good to generate some fun in a small town.
- Nysveen: The Burros girls wrestling team is hosting its first-ever home dual meet.
- Hershey: Buxton is awaiting a quote on some lagoon work. The city council also went through a long list of potential projects for the coming year.
- Braaten: Hopefully some homes going up in Mayville this spring.
- Grothmann: Jake and Lori Jaffa are looking to buy the Subway building in Hillsboro. Someone who lives near Buxton is seeking land for housing and a feedlot. Nysveen said there are a couple farmsteads near him that could be possibilities.
- Andresen: Gave a Valley United update.
- Knudsvig: Township roads are pretty good. Buxton Fire Department held its annual gathering.
- Van Horn – First week of Mayville State’s second semester is complete, although census data isn’t yet available. Old Main continues to progress. Archery program – five women and two men – participated in a meet in Fargo. All participants did well. Short asked if TCEDC could line up a tour of Old Main when it gets warmer.

Adjournment – 6:27 p.m.

Officer (printed name & office) Signature Date

Recording Secretary (printed name) Signature Date