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| Minutes |
| May 13, 2020 |
| **WRP Board Meeting** |
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| **Present:** | | Bob Borremans, Sandy Decker, Rebecca Giroux, Seth Hudson, Todd Johnson, Kenyon Kies, MaryAnn Lippert, Lisa Taylor, Jerry Wehrle, Erring Welty |
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| **Absent:** | | Dave Armstrong and Michael Decorah |
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| **Others:** | | Steve Peterson |
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|  | Call Meeting to Order | |
|  | Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m. by President Wehrle. | |
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|  | Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2020 Meeting | |
|  | Motion by Wehrle and seconded by Welty to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. | |
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|  | Summit Update | |
|  | The groups discussed various options for the Summit. It was agreed that the 2020 Summit should be cancelled and reschedule for Marshfield for the third Wednesday and Thursday in April 2021. Peterson and Lippert will share the information with the Summit planning committee. Motion by Borremans, seconded by Johnson to hold the 2021 Summit in Marshfield and hold the 2022 Summit in Mauston. Motion carried unanimously.  2020 registrations and sponsorships will be maintained and carried over to 2021 unless the person or organization requests a refund. Peterson will send out an email officially notifying registrants, sponsors and partners of the Summit cancellation. | |
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|  | Partner Relations | |
|  | With the Summit cancelled, the group discussed the best way to create value and work effectively with partner organizations. All agreed it would be important to reach out to partners showing an organizational plan showing WRP efforts to address rural reopening/recovery activities. All members were asked to develop ideas and bring those to the July in-person board meeting for discussion.There was also discussion about reaching out to Summit sponsors, rather than having the sponsor fee refunded, if they would consider converting that fee to a partnership. Following discussion, there was a motion by Borremans, seconded by Armstrong to develop an internal operational plan for WRP. The motion also was approved unanimously. Lippert and Peterson will work on the plan and they should enlist others as needed. It was suggested that the plan should be presented at the July in-person board meeting for discussion and approval. | |
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|  | Alternate Activity Options | |
|  | All agreed there would be a ripple impact as communities moved forward and that it is unlikely that business will return to “business as usual.” WRP could have a key role in assisting rural communities. The concept of webinars address rural prosperity could be an important tool. The group suggested that webinars be limited to one hour with opportunities for participant engagement. Generally, there should be 40 – 45 minutes of contents with the remaining time designated for comments and engagement. Board members were asked to send possible webinar topics to Peterson. It is also important that WRP reach out to rural communities and webinar participants to seek their input on webinar topics. What do rural communities need to address recovery. It was noted that there were a number of surveying tools that could be used to collect data showing the impact of the economic shut down on rural communities. There has been a lot of talk the scope of the problem but not enough active suggestion.  If WRP is going to do webinars, the group discussed purchasing a Zoom or other teleconference system license. Giroux said WHEDA just went through the process to purchase a Zoom license. She agreed to gather information on the various levels of licensing and the costs options for presentation at the June meeting. | |
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|  | Small Community Forums Update | |
|  | No report because the group did not meet in May. The next meeting will be in June. Given that a decision would not be finalized until June, it was speculated that the forums would likely be cancelled. Welty said that, given the nature of the forums and working relationships with planning groups, it would be possible to hold the forums on short notice. | |
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|  | Video Conferencing System License | |
|  | If WRP is going to do webinars, the group discussed purchasing teleconference system license. There is Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Go To Meeting, Google, etc. Giroux said WHEDA just went through the process to purchase a Zoom license. She agreed to gather information on the various levels of licensing and the costs options for presentation at the June meeting. | |
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|  | WRP Manager Update | |
|  | Peterson reported that his health is improving following emergency appendectomy surgery. He noted that the Facebook hits continue to increase and WRP is receiving a lot of shares. He indicated that he intends to step down as manager on June 1st and go hour-by-hour. | |
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|  | Other Items | |
|  | Lisa Taylor has resigned her position on the board because she changed jobs and her new employer (Small Business Administration) did not approve her request to continue with WRP. She hopes to remain in contact and attend WRP events. | |
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|  | Adjournment | |
|  | The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. | |