



Cook County & Grand Marais Economic Development Authority

Thursday, July 3, 2025 – 9:00 AM

Grand Marais City Hall – Council Chambers

15 North Broadway Ave, Grand Marais, MN 55604

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Present: Peter Clissold, Howard Hedstrom, Alex Beebe-Guidice, Tracy Benson, Mark Shackleton, Siri Anderson

Absent: Dave Mills

Others Present: Peter Mont, Greg Westergard, Kallie Hawkins, minute taker Maggie Barnard

President Clissold called the Special EDA Meeting to order at 9:01 am

1. Approval of Agenda

The purpose for the Special Meeting is to review the resignation of Executive Director Heidi Krampitz, (not present), and to review EDA activities moving forward. Request for any additions or revisions to the agenda. No additions or revisions. **Motion to approve the agenda** (Hedstrom/Benson) Vote: Passed (6-0)

2. Acceptance of Heidi Krampitz Resignation

Clissold said he received this letter June 19, 2025 and shared it with the commissioners. **Motion to accept Krampitz letter of resignation on July 3, 2025** (Benson/Hedstrom) Vote: Passed (6-0)

3. Immediate Term: Review of Current Status and Next Steps of Selected Projects

Taconite Harbor:

Schroeder Township Board met Monday June 30th and Clissold was informed by Braidy Powers that they had appointed this project single point of contact to be Bruce Martinson, a supervisor on the Town Board. Benson and Anderson, members of this of EDA sub-committee, were not previously aware or notified that this action would occur. Benson said the project contractor, Stantec, should be the lead planner. Discussion. Westergard read the Schroeder Board's resolution for this appointment and that it recommends this administrator as an individual rather than as a Town Supervisor. County Commissioner Storlie was present at that meeting and it was requested by the Town Board that the County Commissioners make this assignment rather than the EDA. Hedstrom clarified that the County has made the EDA the authority and that Benson should be the EDA's point of contact on this project. It is possible that Powers misunderstood the Martinson appointment and it is to identify him as the Township's representative. Benson said there appears to be a lack of clear communication and she recommends a meeting with the Schroeder Township Board as well as communicating with Brady Powers. The next Schroeder meeting is Tuesday, July 8th. Benson will contact both Powers and Schroeder Township.

Business Grant Fund:

There is a temporary moratorium on new applications for this fiscal year due to near-depletion of funds which will be renewed in the new fiscal year budget. There are three active applications in the process for July. Shackleton said he needs access to the EDA computer. Clissold said Krampitz has possession of the laptop as well as the phone and she will send them back to Cook County. Clissold said Krampitz also submitted a transition document.

2026 EDA Budget:

The budget has been submitted to the County. Shackleton will be the contact for Brady Powers.

Superior National Golf Course:

Property remains for sale and available for site visits. There will be a bidding process for Hole 17 repair work and Heath Ekstrom will oversee it.

Cedar Park Business Park:

Closing is imminent, however Shackleton said there may be one lot that has not been accounted for because it may not be sellable due to lot defects. He will research.

4. Near Term: Discuss the Near-Term Need for Administrative Support and Possible Solutions

a. Executive Summary

- The Executive Director role has been a single person operation; this presents challenges as this requires both administrative and strategic activities. Vacancy of EDA Executive Director leaves the basic functioning of EDA at risk.
- Goal
Short Term: offer Krampitz the opportunity to continue working as a contractor. Krampitz declined.
Long Term: consider hiring administrative support for a new Executive Director.
- Solutions – contract with an agency for administrative support
 - Provide administrative coverage during transition period
 - Establish ongoing administrative function
 - Not mutually exclusive

b. Temporary Support – Keep the machine running during recruitment and hiring Executive Director

- Contract with North Shore Development Co, (NSDC) contact is Jason Hale
- In-Scope: keeping current work processes moving forward
- Out-of-Scope: political responsibilities
- Conclude contract upon successful on-boarding of new EDA Executive Director

c. Ongoing Support – Establish administrative function

- New administrative function
- Contract with NSDC
- Opportunity for growth into HRA space in case of future merger

d. Next Steps

- Establish a Special Committee (Hedstrom, Shackleton and Clissold). This committee should be given authority to study and contract for the temporary solutions. Benson recommended ARDC, (Arrowhead Regional Development Commission), as an administrative support to maintain grants. Special Committee to continue to investigate the ongoing support model and report back to EDA board. Hedstrom said Pat Campanaro is willing and available to serve in an interim capacity. Anderson said there are international agencies available as well. Once a temporary solution is identified the committee will no longer be needed and Clissold will be the point person for EDA inquiries. Beebe-Guidice recommended there also be a thoughtful review of the culture of the organization in its relationship with the Executive Director. Discussion. **Motion to approve this resolution granting the Special Committee the authority to study and contract with a temporary administrative agency.** (Shackleton/Anderson) Vote: Passed (6-0)

5. Long Term: Discuss the Long Term Plan for EDA (and possibly HRA)

Clissold had a conversation with Bill Gabler, HRA Board President, revisiting possible merger of the two organizations. Gabler said there has been no current desire from their board to revisit this. Discussion. It was suggested that the Cook County Revolving Loan fund be considered to be under the scope of the EDA since it serves as an economic driver in the County however not until the Superior National Golf Course is resolved.

6. Discuss Next Steps for Recruitment and Hiring

Benson, Beebe-Guidice and Mills are currently on the Personnel Committee. They agree to take on the new hire

search and will update the job description with current topics discussed and have a draft ready to review at the July 15 EDA regular meeting. Anderson said she listened to a Small Towns podcast out of Brainerd that has a unique process to hiring, she will share a link with Commissioners. Anderson also shared copies of a publication called 'Zoom'.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the special meeting at 9:50 a.m. (Hedstrom/Shackleton).

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Respectfully submitted by minute taker Maggie Barnard.