

**Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
Meeting of the WEDC Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee**

**WEDC
Skype Meeting**

**Thursday, May 28, 2020
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

- Co-Chair Becca Cooke
- Co-Chair Joe Kirgues
- Committee member Carl Ruedebusch
- Committee member Craig Dickman
- Committee member Jignesh Patel
- Committee member John Miller
- Committee member Kelly Ryan
- Committee member Larry Evinger
- Committee member Nancy Hernandez
- Committee member Sarah Lloyd
- Committee member Zach Halmstad

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

- Committee member Erik Iverson
- Committee member JoAnne Johnson-Sabir
- Committee member Mike Kunesh
- Committee member Fern Orié

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

PRESENTATION OF PILOT PROGRAM PROPOSALS TO THE WEDC BOARD

The E & I Committee will vote today on one of the pilot programs brought forward by two teams. One pilot program proposal will be presented to the full Board, using \$500,000 of available funds.

Start-Up/Venture Task Force Pilots. Committee Co-Chair Joe Kirgues, along with other team members, presented a summary of his team's proposal for Convertible Note Investments. Other team members assisted the presentation. Followed by discussion and questions.

Main Street/Rural Task Force Pilots.

- 1) Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke, along with team members, presented a summary of her team's proposal for a long-term program proposal called Badger Broadband, to help fund township cooperative ownership of regional broadband. Followed by discussion and questions.

- 2) Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke, along with team members, presented a summary of her team's next proposal – Small Business Navigator Team - for a statewide WEDC small business manager team, possibly under the Office of Rural Prosperity, supporting farm and food trade routes.
- 3) Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke, along with team members, presented a summary of her team's next proposal – Building Values Based Supply Chain – regarding WI dairy and meat products.

VOTE ON PROPOSED PILOT PROGRAM TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE BOARD

Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke requested a motion to approve proposing the Convertible Note pilot program to the full Board. Mike Kunesh made a motion to recommend the Convertible Note Program to the Board of Directors and seconded by Nancy Hernandez. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was noted that the other three proposals are excellent proposals, will be discussed with the Board, and committee discussions will be held in the future.

DISCUSSION. REMAINING 2020 COMMITTEE MEETINGS – FOCUS AND PURPOSE

Continue committee member engagement and cooperative work.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Becca Cooke requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Nancy Hernandez and seconded by Erik Iverson. The motion to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.