

Vision West ND Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 4, 2024

Location: Via Zoom Meeting

Chair: Daniel Stenberg

Attendees: Daniel Stenberg, David Flohr, John Suter, Melanie Bauer-Dukart, Teran Doerr, Sara Wagner, Kacie Kostelecky

Meeting Called to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Stenberg at 9:04 AM.

Agenda Items:

1. David Floer Report:

- Discussed the proposal of 4 listening sessions with stakeholders.
- Planning to host listening sessions in Bismarck and rural areas from late March to May.
- Formation of an advisory panel to create programs based on information from sessions.
- Focused on childcare, housing supply, incentives for builders, and increasing the labor force.
- Proposed a survey of the public for ideas, possibly conducted by NDSU or UND.
- Emphasized inclusion of manufactured housing industry in discussions.
- Daniel inquired about the nature of the governor's plan (single or multi-family).
- David clarified the plan includes both, emphasizing a focus on housing supply.

2. Bowman Housing Grant:

- Teran discussed a recent housing grant of \$273,000 for purchasing and redeveloping dilapidated properties.
- Concerns about negotiations with property managers.

3. Introduction of Sarah Wagner:

- Sarah introduced herself as the new Economic Development Director for Tioga.

4. Discussion on Housing Opportunities:

- Melanie raised concerns about the length of time for builders to start projects and funding challenges.
- Emphasized the need for incentives for builders and the current delay in funding programs.
- Mentioned the issues with loan programs.

5. Legislative Outreach:

- Teran suggested contacting legislators Dori Hauck and Greg Kessel.

6. Cash Management Plan:

- Discussed frustrations with the state's cash management and the need to leverage funds.
- David informed the group that the Governor hired a company to explore better ways to manage state cash for optimal returns.

7. Additional Input:

- Kacie urged a focus on water availability for new buildings. David mentioned he had not been aware of the water issue previously.

8. Next Meeting:

- Daniel proposed the next meeting is indefinite until added information becomes known.
- The meeting adjourned, with attendees expressing commitment to addressing the outlined topics in subsequent sessions.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is not scheduled.

Daniel adjourned the meeting at 9:45AM MT / 10:45AM CT

Recorded by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kacie Kostelecky".

Kacie Kostelecky, Vision West ND Administrative Team