



**Minutes of Economic Development Board Meeting  
Held on June 15, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** @ 7:10 PM

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** John DeRuyter, Brian Ashton, Chair Bob Dalrymple

**ABSENT:** Caitlin Cardinell

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kate Thomas, Matt Henson

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

- a) Thomas: Asks to amend for USFS to speak after Amendments to the Agenda.

***Amendment Approved Unanimously***

**4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** NONE

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a) Economic Development Board meeting minutes from April 20th, 2023.

***M/S: DeRuyter/Ashton move to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 20th, 2023.***

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:** NONE

**7. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:** NONE

**8. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a) Economic Development Director Report for May 2023.

Director presented report.

- b) USFS Wrangell Ranger District update provided by Victoria Houser.

Report provided by Austin O'Brien & Barb Miranda.

Barb provided a general review of the SASS-FM program. USFS is looking for locations/projects that will benefit Wrangell's economy. Input can be submitted through the online story map. The program allows for small scale commercial harvesting. Dalrymple requested continued local analysis on areas in the Tongass. Borough input will be broad. Public comment is open through June 30. USFS to engage with local tribes to ensure that their desired projects will be funded. The goal is to have a 10-year project list to ensure resources are allocated properly.



O'Brien reported pre-commercial thinning projects begin soon. Zarembo is a priority area, moving back towards Wrangell from there. Wrangell Island blueberry production is being considered and USFS is looking to bolster berry production. USFS is working on a single small sail unit and is also in the process of filing position vacancies. Construction and repairs at the Anan Observatory are about to begin. The agency is looking for a local mill to help supply timber for the project. The recreation department is focused on deferred maintenance. A student conservation crew will assist with a variety of projects, including Borough projects. It is unclear whether the additional viewing platform will be replaced at Anan. Other projects include Roosevelt dock. The contract to take care of the washout on Zarembo Island has been awarded recently.

Thomas stated the conservation crew has worked with the Borough on three occasions. Partnerships also include cross training with chainsaw use and trail maintenance. This is an invaluable service to borough departments.

## 9. ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS

- a) Review of preliminary results from Six-Mile-Deep Water Port public survey.

The board reviewed the preliminary results of the public survey. Ashton stated that respondents are reacting to immediate needs, but EDB must consider what options grow industry and economy while respecting community immediate desires. Community needs may be solved by further economic growth.

Thomas stated that staff will work on a plan over the next few months with Borough administration to find a strategic approach to development. Continued public outreach will be included in the plans going forward. Dalrymple requested that the findings of the survey be presented to the Assembly. A report will be provided to the Assembly with an opportunity to hold a joint workshop with the purpose of reviewing a strategy for development between the Assembly and the Economic Development Board.

## 10. ADJOURN: Adjourned @ 8:10

The next meeting date is September 7<sup>th</sup>.

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Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary