CALL TO ORDER
Steve O'Malley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2019 LA CROSSE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC. MEETING
MOTION by Holtze/Giese to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2019 La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc. meeting. Motion carried unanimously; Johnson, Kruse, Augustine, Balacek, Hampson and McKenney excused.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT PHASE OF LAKEVIEW BUSINESS PARK
The Village of West Salem has requested that La Crosse County dedicate the projected road right-of-way and “Bowl” area to the Village. Staff is working on a resolution that will go to Public Works & Infrastructure Committee, Executive Committee, and on to the County Board. Charlie Handy showed a map of the 15 acre prospect discussed at last month’s meeting. He indicated that this prospect is actually a distribution facility, not a manufacturing facility, as originally thought. We have also received a Letter of Interest from a 5-acre prospect for the Lakeview Business Park. In the Lakeview Business Park, Phases 1 and 2 have been completed. The County has always been the landowner of the County Farm, and thus the developer of these first two phases. In the next stage, the goal is to have the Village of West Salem negotiating with the prospects. MOTION by Holtze/Moua to recommend to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee, Executive Committee, and the County Board, to proceed with negotiations with the Village of West Salem regarding dedication of the projected road right-of-way and the “Bowl” area, subject to restrictions to preserve our use of stormwater discharge to the “Bowl” area. Motion carried unanimously; Johnson, Kruse, Augustine, Balacek, Hampson and McKenney excused.

FUNDING REQUEST BY GUNDERSEN FOR SPECTRUM INSTALLED IN LAKEVIEW BUSINESS PARK
This item was referred from the January EDF meeting to allow staff some time to gather additional data. Staff has reached out to the other tenants of the Lakeview Business Park and obtained additional data from both Five Star Telecom and Gundersen. Attached in the packets was a summary of the responses, as well as the staff recommendation to deny the request from Gundersen for funding the cost of internet installation, up to $33,000. MOTION by Weidenbach/Davidson to deny the request from Gundersen, per staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously; Johnson, Kruse, Augustine, Balacek, Hampson and McKenney excused.

CDBG-CLOSE UPDATE
As previously reported, HUD approved the CLOSE proposal from DOA, so we are now in the CLOSE period, which runs from February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2021. This means that our CDBG funded Revolving Loan Fund is closed, and we can no longer make loans out of this fund. During this period, we will need to pay back our CDBG-funded RLF money to the State and decide whether we want to buy out the receivables. A staff workgroup has been working
to plan for and determine maximum benefits from this process. Brian Fukuda showed a spreadsheet showing accounts with scheduled monthly payments, estimated cash income and estimated receivables. Staff is also working on identifying projects that we could potentially do. We are estimating that we will have approximately $600,000 in cash in our account and $800,000-$850,000 in receivables in this fund. We will need to decide whether we want to come up with money to buy out these receivables, and then pay that money to the State. The State then holds it for us in a dedicated grant fund, which would be approximately $1.4 million for La Crosse County to use on CDBG-eligible grant projects. We would need to make an application for these funds by January 2021. Bangor is one possible (infrastructure) project that is scheduled to be done anyway. The projects need to meet HUD national objectives of either serving low to moderate income populations or eliminating blight. At their quarterly meeting on February 13th at 10:00, the MRRPC will be presenting a report on the CDBG Close Process for some of the other municipalities they administer funds for. The meeting will be held at the AmericInn if you are interested in learning more about this process.

**CHILDCARE SURVEY DATA PRESENTATION**

This agenda item will be postponed until next month.

**WITS IDEA FORUM DATA PRESENTATION**

Karl Green presented Wisconsin Unemployment and Employment Projections. Charlie Handy and Karl Green attended the Department of Workforce Development’s review of data in regard unemployment and employment issues in the State of Wisconsin. We are in a rare situation of extremely low unemployment and companies struggle to get enough workers to fill positions.

**AGENCY UPDATES** – none noted

**PUBLIC HEARING RE: APPLICATION FOR WISCONSIN DOT CAPITAL GRANT FOR SMRT BUS UNDER SECTION 5311 OF THE FAST ACT**

As part of the process for La Crosse County taking over the administration of the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus, we apply every year to the State of Wisconsin for administrative dollars to administer the SMRT, as well as apply for capital dollars to help fund the purchase of buses. We applied for two buses for 2019; one is a replacement, which we will do continually due to the many miles driven; the second is to add a bus and a route for the Green Route to Tomah. The funding for this is approximately $300,000 per bus and our local share of this is 10% or $30,000 per bus. We are required by this funding request to hold a public hearing. There were no members of the public present. **MOTION** by Holtze/Weidenbach to close the public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously**; Johnson, Kruse, Augustine, Balacek, Hampson and McKenney excused.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 7, 2019 at 7:30 A.M.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Update of Innovation & Diversification Grant Application - Brian has received 2 applications; staff will score and bring back next month; will also bring an updated application for this program
- Broad band availability in the county

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Giese/Weidenbach to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously**; Johnson, Kruse, Augustine, Balacek, Hampson and McKenney excused.

**APPROVED March 7, 2019 - Terri Pavlic, Recorder**