Manchester Development Authority

Regular Meeting

Minutes

May 15, 2025

 9:00 a.m.

The Manchester Development Authority Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting Thursday May 15, 2025. The meeting was held at the MDA office located at 117 Callaway Street, Manchester. Board members in attendance were Beverly Wadsworth, Rev. Tom Moseley, Danny Wadsworth, Solomon Ferguson, Scott Gilbert, Heather Carter, Robin Garrett, and Jimmy Mitcham. Mr. Glen Gosa joined the meeting after it had begun.

MDA staff present was Executive Director Jodi Sharpe. Special guests were Jane Fryer and Velinda Walton (Meriwether Co. IDA) Joy Evans (Meriwether Chamber of Commerce) and Leadership Meriwether members. Other guests included Haley Eriquezzo (GaDEcD), Corinne Thorton (Department of Community Affairs) Eric McDonald (Georgia Power), Mayor Mark Trimble, Virginia Strait (citizen), and Victor Rosario (citizen)

1. Call to Order- Beverly Wadsworth called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and led in the invocation.
2. Approval of Agenda for May 15, 2025, Regular Meeting- Solomon Ferguson made a motion to approve the May 15th agenda. Scott Gilbert seconded and all were in favor.

Approval of Minutes for April 17, 2025, Regular Meeting- Robin Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17th regular meeting and Solomon Ferguson seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes for the May 8, 2025, Special Called Meeting- Jimmy Mitcham made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8th Called meeting. Solomon Ferguson seconded, and all were in favor.

1. New Business
2. New Board Member Welcome to the MDA- New board members Tom Mosely and Heather Carter were welcomed.
3. Select Officer- Vice Chair and Chair- Robin Garrett nominated Beverly Wadsworth as chairwoman, the board voted unanimously for Beverly Wadsworth.

Heather Carter was nominated by Jimmy Mitcham to serve as vice chair. The board voted unanimously to approve Heather Carter as vice chair.

1. Remove/ Replace Check Signer- Solomon Ferguson made a motion to remove Suzanne Bartels Pengelly as check signer for all three accounts at F&M Bank and add Beverly Wadsworth as third signer. Robin Garrett seconded the motion and all were in favor.
2. Old Business
3. Approval of 2025-2026 FY Budget- Ms. Sharpe presented the board with the budget for the 2025-2026 FY budget. Solomon Ferguson made a motion to approve the budget for the 2025-2026 FY. Jimmy Mitcham seconded the motion and all were in favor.
4. Guest Speaker- Danny Hosey, Meriwether County IDA- Unfortunately, Mr. Danny Hosey was unable to attend the meeting.
5. Guest Speaker- Joan Caldwell, President Theater- Ms. Caldwell informed the MDA that the President Theater would be hosting the Missoula Children’s Theater Drama Camp June 15-22nd. She asked that the MDA sponsor the event and asked for the entire amount needed of $4000.00.
6. Georgia Power Presentation- “Economic Development 101” – Eric McDonald, Regional Economic Development Manager for Georgia Power gave an informative presentation about Economic Development and Manchester.

Haley Eriquezzo, Corinne Thorton, and Eric McDonald provided a panel discussion about the programs that each of their organizations can help with various aspects of economic development. Ms. Eriquezzo with the Georgia Department discussed tax credits, site visits, and current trends in companies locating in Georgia. Ms. Thorton with the Department of Community Affairs discussed several programs offered to communities through DCA- workforce housing initiatives, as well as some historic preservation programs.

1. Executive Session- Solomon Ferguson made a motion to leave regular session and enter executive session for real estate and personnel. Jimmy Mitcham seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Solomon Ferguson made a motion to leave executive session and enter back into regular session. Jimmy Mitcham seconded and all were in favor.

No action was needed to be taken from discussion in executive session.

 Adjourn - Beverly Wadsworth adjourned the meeting.