

OPPORTUNITY ZONE STEERING COMMITTEE

April 9, 2019
11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2019

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

A. Steering Committee

Karen Blumenstein, Rob Brown, Jeff Kraft, Max Math, Trish Thibodo, Trent Thompson, Kim Woodworth,

B. Staff

Jana Persky, Jamie Hackbarth

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

A. Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019

- Persky noted to correct Trent's name in minutes to Trent Thompson,
- Kraft moved to approve the minutes with the change requested. Unfug seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Program Updates

- Hackbarth was introduced as new program manager for Opportunity Zones
- Persky reviewed upcoming events and presentations including CDFA Federal Policy Conference. Kraft will be attending the White House OZ conference. Thompson noted other EDA staff will be attending these events as well.
- Persky shared meeting with Cory Gardner, and potential interest to support OEDIT technical support grants with federal monies. Nothing is confirmed at this time.
- Persky will presenting at the Novogradac Conference, Hackbarth will be attending. The intermountain West Funder Network conference is happening on the same dates, Thompson and Unfug will be attending this.
- Persky shared the OZ Cleantech Breakfast to attend on April 11th. California CleanTech will be presenting on their white paper.
- Kraft suggested to convene the steering committee once new guidelines come out.
- Persky presented on Community Workshop in partnerships Governance Project and EIG. Rachel Reilly to present. 40 attendees from communities confirmed.
- Persky will be presenting a webinar for Colorado Municipal League early June. She noted utilizing this deck as a webinar to be sharable. Unfug noted integrating DOLA regional managers on this event as well as panel.
- Woodworth is working on content for upcoming regional forum scheduled on June 27th. Region 8 (SLV) could be utilized as a case study in Opportunity Zone. Potential to do an Opportunity Zone workshop the afternoon.
- Kraft shared EDC road meeting to the Eastern Plains on May 15-16th. EDC will visit Fort Morgan OZ project. Steering Committee is welcome to join.

- Persky shared OEDITs technical support grants have been integrated online. There have no been new applications submitted, but interest from several communities. Prowers County applied for DOLA grant, and Math sent Persky over to review.
- Persky reviewed the grant pipeline and gave an updates on various in different stages.
- Thompson gave an update of communities he is working with in regards to OZ, including Moffat County, The Denver Metro Area (Rise Westwood), and two potential projects in Colorado Springs (U.S. Ignite and the National Cyber Center)
- Persky shared about Neighborly and how they are setting up a rural broadband opportunity fund. The broadband office is mapping overlay of broadband and opportunity zone.

C. Discuss Program Structure

- Persky shared about the Governor's Fellow support program and technical support. Shared on industries Governor's may dive into to see potential with OZs (i.e. broadband, renewable energy, cleantech, housing, and infrastructure).
- Woodworth noted food technology as a potential industry.
- Kraft noted to be able to send Governor's Fellows over to either DOLA, Broadband or other areas of expertise for them to deep dive with public sector lens as well.
- Woodworth noted having NREL apart of the renewable energy discussion and could share two contacts.
- Persky asked guidance on how to be tracking projects statewide to help steer our strategy. Kraft noted the advantages of systematizing the information and gathering data to have a broad repository of OZ projects
- Persky and Hackbarth will draft a simple survey to blast out to networks. To see the trends, and to reach out to EIG / Governance Project of any data sources or questions they are utilizing.
- Woodworth noted the challenges of finding the co-invest.co website. Hackbarth will work with marketing on SEO.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.