



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
June 8, 2017

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2017
5. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. PRESENTATION
 - a. Kelly Byers and Jim Gehrlein – Enterprise Development Fund
 - b. Ron DiNicola, Joe Maloney and Dr. Roy Church - Empower Erie
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Regional Assets Committee
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Update from County Council
 - e. Update from County Executive's Office
9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT
11. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Ignite Erie Budget Amendment
 - b. Reduction of PVP Committed Funds
12. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Resolution No. 7, 2017 – Resolution to enter into agreements with the four (4) recommended Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants recipients.
 - b. Resolution No.8, 2017 – Resolution to enter into an agreement with 1855 Capital Partners for previously discussed Mission Related Investment (MRI).
 - c. Resolution No. 9, 2017 – Resolution to into agreements with six (6) Human Services Agencies.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting and Finance Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie 16510



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting
May 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on May 11, 2017 in the Jordan Room; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

(Due to technical difficulties, this meeting was not recorded.)

ROLL CALL

Mr. Bagnoni (arrives late), Mr. Barney, Mr. Paris, Mr. Sample, and Mr. Yaple. Mr. Lee, Mr. Wachter, and Mr. Wood are also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Paris makes a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 2017

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Yaple seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

No presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Notice was given that some of the financial reports for this month were incorrect, due to yearly totals versus fiscal year totals. They will be adjusted accordingly and will be presented again at the June meeting for approval.
- b. Regional Assets Committee: Nothing to report.
- c. Strategic Planning Committee: MRI's were discussed briefly by Mr. Wood. There will be a more in depth meeting to be scheduled for the end of May 2017 to discuss at length.
- d. Update from County Council: Nothing to report.
- e. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee discusses the Summer Jobs and More Program.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Wood:

PA House Gaming Oversight Committee

This week the official transcript of the PA House Gaming Oversight Committee's hearing in Erie was released online. Chairman Petri's comments were very flattering and the testimony was incredible. Here are some highlights:

In Petri's opening statement, he said, "For the members who did not see it, we were welcomed with an above-the-fold front page story. And that's clear news to us. We understand what that means. That means that this is very, very important to Erie and we're pleased to be here."

He also complemented the welcome reception stating: "I want to thank everyone for last night's reception and attendance. Your local officials were out in full force. And I think we saw demonstrative proof of the positive impacts the local share is having on your community. And I must say as the Chairman, and as a member of the House for a long time, I don't ever remember such a warm welcome from a community."

County Executive Dahlkemper stated in her testimony: "It's important to note that in Erie County, we have a unique manner of distributing our funds and that our local share funds have been used innovatively, collaboratively and precisely as the law intended."

She also stated: "Erie County working in conjunction with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has been able to balance the impact of the local casino and work to reinvent itself."

Her answers to the committee were excellent.

Supervisor Agostine testimony drove home the point of local share gaming when she stated: "the planning and land development process for PID took five years and hundreds of man hours worked by township personnel. When PID opened the health, safety, and welfare of their many employees, together with thousands of patrons, it became Summit's responsibility." She then went on to layout a very persuasive case for impact, including fact like PID uses 113,000 gallons of water a day during its peak season.

Leading up to my testimony, Chairman Petri complemented ECGRA's Economic Impact Study, stating: "let me state publicly that we all received a copy of this report. Fantastic report. I know you're not solely the one that put it together, but for everyone who hasn't read it, it is phenomenal, one of the best I've ever seen. And I said last night.... whoever can put this together should do something like this statewide because it's very helpful."

After my comments were concluded, Chairman Petri said, "You should really be thankful that your community is working together. You should really be proud of that fact because I think you're actually demonstrating how effective you can be when you gather together and communicate. So, maybe you have the model that the rest of the state should be following."

Representative Diamond, then stated: "From everything I've seen across the State -- and I will readily admit that no other locality has given us the depth of understanding of what they do as well as you have, but it does appear to me that Erie County is different, is unique amongst all our...beneficiaries of our casinos."

Subsequent testimony from partners and grant recipients was excellent.

In total the transcript is a 117-page document that captures the impact of ECGRA, the appreciation of the beneficiaries, the hard work of the ECGRA board, and recognition from a statewide audience that Team Erie County is doing it right.

Gaming Legislation Update

House Bill 271 aka the Gaming Omnibus Bill is the vehicle the Senate is currently using to make amendments to gaming legislation. Currently the bill contains provisions to expand gaming, fix local share, and redirect funds to non-casino hosting municipalities and counties. The following are highlights that effect Team Erie County:

Definition of Local Share is consistent with the current definition

Legalization of VGTs is likely

Internet gaming expansion is on the table

A new concept known as satellite stations is being discussed

Overall, things are looking up

Other notes:

MMC grant applications are due tonight at midnight.

Up For The Job Proposals will be reviewed today at 9:30am. Ms. Burlingham is representing ECGRA at the meeting.

We have received one MRI request. It's from Blue Highway Capital. The staff is not quite ready to begin the vetting & review process. We'll ask the board to convene a meeting in the near future.

Empower Erie has received the endorsement of the UE Local 506 and other labor unions such as Great Lakes Building Trades.

ECGRA participated in a press conference with the Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch park renovation project. The park was a community asset grant recipient.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr Wachter distributes the following memo (attached at end).

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wood discusses the issue of contracting a new auditor for ECGRA's yearly audits. The new proposal was submitted by MaherDuessel, Certified Public Accountants. The proposed fee to complete the 2016-2017 audit is \$6,500. That is an increase from the previous auditor, Felix & Gloekler,P.C., with an invoice of \$5,400.

Mr. Yapple makes a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paris moves to adjourn. Mr. Yapple seconds the motion.



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MEMO

TO: Chairman David Sample, ECGRA

FROM: Tim Wachter

DATE: May 11, 2017

RE: Summer JAMS

Erie County has inquired whether ECGRA can grant the funds identified for the Summer JAMS project directly to the County. ECGRA has historically operated with the policy that Settlement Municipalities are not permitted to be granted funds over and above the Settlement allocation. The County is a Settlement Municipality.

To facilitate Summer JAMS, the County issued a RFP to select a program facilitator. This year, GECAC was awarded a two year agreement. The summer of 2017 constitutes the first year of the new contract. The two main funders of the program have been the County and ECGRA. The County appropriates funds to be spent on the program facilitator. The County also serves as the program administrator. In the past, ECGRA has granted funds directly to GECAC, entered into a grant agreement with GECAC, and has paid GECAC upon their request.

Now, the County has requested that ECGRA grant the money directly to the County. This request is premised upon a need for accounting oversight. If ECGRA was to grant the funds directly to the County, this would create an exception to the historic policy of not granting funds to Settlement Municipalities.

ECGRA staff and solicitor have suggested to the County that a compromise position exists. This compromise position is that ECGRA would still grant the money to GECAC, but that any such funds would be paid to GECAC only upon notification from the County. This arrangement would necessitate a revised Grant Agreement with GECAC, and a separate MOU with the County which would describe the procedure through which ECGRA would cut a check to GECAC, and only after the County would request that such payment be made. In this scenario, the County would secure its role in program oversight and administration while ECGRA will be able to continue its long standing policy of not granting funds to Settlement Municipalities.

The arrangement described in this memo parallels the one ECGRA has with grants offered in conjunction with the Erie Community Foundation. When the grants are awarded, ECF

and ECGRA enter into separate grant agreements with the recipient. The recipient reports back to ECF, and at such point that payment is justified, ECF notifies ECGRA and ECGRA cuts the appropriate check directly to the recipient.

At no time in this scenario does the ECGRA board cede its fiduciary responsibility to gaming revenue distribution. Such an arrangement secures the fidelity of the grant making process for ECGRA as well as the administrative and programmatic oversight by ECF.

Not only is the above suggested approach recommended for programmatic and policy reasons, but also for legal reasons. We are well aware that ECGRA is required to facilitate some methodology of due process when reviewing and awarding grants. If ECGRA was to grant money directly to the County without regard to the program facilitator, then ECGRA's action could rightly be confused with making a direct payment to the County rather than the awarding of a grant to the grantee.

For those reasons, it is the recommendation of ECGRA staff and the Solicitor that EGRA award the Summer JAMS grant to GECAC, that the grant agreement indicate that payment will be made upon demand and verification by the County Financial Department, and that a separate MOU be entered into with the County whereby the County and ECGRA agree on the process to implement this policy.

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Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
May 2017

	<u>May 17</u>	<u>YTD</u>	Budget YTD	2017-18 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44800 · Gaming Revenue	254,570.93	254,570.93		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	5,820.14	9,620.66		
46420 · Interest Income - EDF #1		3,750.00		
46421 · Interest Income - EDF #2		6,000.00		
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	<u>5,820.14</u>	<u>19,370.66</u>		
Total Income	<u>260,391.07</u>	<u>273,941.59</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	5,237.10	11,447.00	14,183.34	85,100.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,386.89	3,435.98	4,858.34	29,150.00
65000 · Office Administration	1,752.86	9,660.80	7,733.34	46,400.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	10,237.04	27,818.12	44,166.66	265,000.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	13,974.51	36,200.41	35,108.32	210,650.00
Total Expense	<u>32,588.40</u>	<u>88,562.31</u>	<u>106,050.00</u>	<u>636,300.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	227,802.67	185,379.28		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements				
70060 · Human Services		19,500.00		
70070 · Special Events		166,046.65		
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>0.00</u>	<u>185,546.65</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(185,546.65)</u>		
Net Income	227,802.67	(167.37)		



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of May 31, 2017

	<u>May</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	23,572.69
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10100 · Uncommitted Funds	8,385,350.74
10101 · Committed Funds	4,113,883.00
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	12,499,233.74
Total Checking/Savings	12,522,806.43
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12001 · Note Receivable - EDF #1	500,000.00
12002 · Note Receivable - EDF #2	800,000.00
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	18,846.25
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC	1,000,000.00
12005 · Note Receivable - Progress	1,000,000.00
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	3,318,846.25
13000 · Lead Assets Endowment II	2,927,064.18
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	6,501.27
Total Other Current Assets	6,252,411.70
Total Current Assets	18,775,218.13
TOTAL ASSETS	18,775,218.13
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	15,848,321.32
Net Income	(167.37)
Total Equity	18,775,218.13
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	18,775,218.13

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Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Statement of Cash Flows
May 2017

	<u>May</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	227,802.67
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income	
to net cash provided by operations:	
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	<u>812.66</u>
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>226,990.01</u>
Net cash increase for period	226,990.01
Cash at beginning of period	<u>12,295,816.42</u>
Cash at end of period	<u><u>12,522,806.43</u></u>



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
May 2017

Expense	May	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 · Contracted Services					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.00%
62130 · Professional Services	3,762.00	9,853.20	45,000.00	(35,146.80)	21.90%
62140 · Legal Services	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	(30,000.00)	0.00%
62145 · Website Design	1,396.00	1,396.00	3,000.00	(1,604.00)	46.53%
62150 · Payroll Services	79.10	197.80	1,100.00	(902.20)	17.98%
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	5,237.10	11,447.00	85,100.00	(73,653.00)	13.45%
62800 · Facilities & Equipment					
62840 · Office Equipment & Furniture	0.00	72.00	7,000.00	(6,928.00)	1.03%
62850 · Janitorial Services	0.00	590.20	2,400.00	(1,809.80)	24.59%
62880 · CAM	0.00	0.00	1,750.00	(1,750.00)	0.00%
62890 · Rent	1,386.89	2,773.78	18,000.00	(15,226.22)	15.41%
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,386.89	3,435.98	29,150.00	(25,714.02)	11.79%
65000 · Office Administration					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	0.00	1,013.00	7,000.00	(5,987.00)	14.47%
65020 · Postage	208.92	258.92	600.00	(341.08)	43.15%
65030 · Printing	0.00	695.00	2,500.00	(1,805.00)	27.80%
65040 · Office Supplies	103.81	103.81	5,000.00	(4,896.19)	2.08%
65050 · Cell Phone	140.56	140.56	2,200.00	(2,059.44)	6.39%
65060 · Copier Lease	182.00	364.00	2,300.00	(1,936.00)	15.83%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	294.08	505.97	4,500.00	(3,994.03)	11.24%
65080 · Bank Fees	28.49	56.98	50.00	6.98	113.96%
65085 · Training & Education	795.00	6,322.00	16,000.00	(9,678.00)	39.51%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	0.00	200.56	6,000.00	(5,799.44)	3.34%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 65000 · Office Administration	1,752.86	9,660.80	46,400.00	(36,739.20)	20.82%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65105 · Communications	0.00	0.00	17,000.00	(17,000.00)	0.00%
65110 · Advertising	817.50	4,014.30	15,000.00	(10,985.70)	26.76%
65115 · Data Processing	809.76	2,213.51	17,000.00	(14,786.49)	13.02%
65120 · Insurance	812.66	1,625.32	9,000.00	(7,374.68)	18.06%
65150 · Travel	15.87	120.65	7,000.00	(6,879.35)	1.72%
65160 · Special Projects	7,781.25	19,844.34	200,000.00	(180,155.66)	9.92%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	10,237.04	27,818.12	265,000.00	(237,181.88)	10.50%
66000 · Payroll Expenses					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	12,817.68	33,223.84	188,100.00	(154,876.16)	17.66%
66010 · FITW Tax	807.07	2,174.47	14,500.00	(12,325.53)	15.00%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	200.00	(200.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASUI Tax	0.00	53.87	2,200.00	(2,146.13)	2.45%
66500 · Retirement	349.76	748.23	5,650.00	(4,901.77)	13.24%
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	13,974.51	36,200.41	210,650.00	(174,449.59)	17.19%
Total Expense	32,588.40	88,562.31	636,300.00	(547,737.69)	13.92%



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of May 31, 2017

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Uncommitted Funds	8,385,350.74		
Committed Funds	4,113,883.00		
2017 Restricted Funds:			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue	254,570.93	254,570.93	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	<u>254,570.93</u>
Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements		185,546.65	
Second Quarter Disbursements		0.00	
Third Quarter Disbursements		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements		0.00	<u>185,546.65</u>
Disbursements Detail			
<u>Grant Categories</u>			
Community Assets		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Human Services			
All God's Children Ministries		2,500.00	
Community Resources for Independence		7,500.00	
Mission Empower		3,500.00	
Sisters of Mercy		6,000.00	<u>19,500.00</u>
Lead Assets		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		1,397.40	
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.		923.10	
Bayfront NATO, Inc.		3,697.50	
Borough of Union City		1,804.55	
Borough of Wesleyville		4,307.80	
CAFÉ		487.90	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.		5,959.35	
Downtown North East		2,696.20	
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundations		11,290.55	
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival		536.35	
Edinboro Highland Games		14,875.00	
Erie Art & Music Festival		13,110.40	
Erie Asian Pacific American Association		2,489.65	
Erie Downtown Partnership		765.00	
Erie Drum Corps Association		871.25	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership		4,165.00	
Film Society of NW PA		908.65	

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of May 31, 2017**

Goodell Gardens & Homestead	5,363.50	
Harborcreek Township	1,909.10	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	18,494.30	
Jefferson Educational Society	1,916.75	
Lake Erie Arboretum At Frontier	5,057.50	
Lake Erie Ballet	566.10	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	7,092.40	
Mercy Center for Women	20,839.45	
The Nonprofit Partnership	1,375.30	
North East Community Fair Association	3,202.80	
Presque Isle Partnership	3,791.00	
Roar on the Shore	4,817.80	
SafeNet	2,550.00	
Saint Patrick's Church	2,135.20	
Sister's of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	4,037.50	
WQLN Public Media	2,454.80	
Waterford Community Fair Association	4,247.45	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society	2,310.30	
YMCA of Greater Erie	2,125.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	854.25	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	620.50	<u>166,046.65</u>
Municipalities	0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Neighborhoods & Communities	0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Small Business Financing	0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Youth & Education	0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Total Funds Disbursements	<u>185,546.65</u>	<u>185,546.65</u>
Committed Funds:		
Enterprise Development Fund	500,000.00	
Shaping Tomorrow		
Empower Erie	385,000.00	
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours/Community Schools	208,333.00	
Gannon University - Go College/East-West Bayfront Plan	45,550.00	
Primary Health Network	100,000.00	
Mercyhurst University - Innovation District	375,000.00	
Penn State, The Behrend College	500,000.00	
PennVenture Partners	2,000,000.00	
Total Committed Funds	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,113,883.00</u>

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Check Detail Report
May 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
05/01/2017	2144	GreatAmerica Financial Services	Copier Fees	-332.00
05/01/2017	2145	Mark Fainstein	Photography	-817.50
05/03/2017	2146	Velocity Network, Inc.	Internet/Fax	-721.18
05/04/2017	2147	Velocity Network, Inc.	IT/Phones	-232.66
05/05/2017	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	4/15/17-4/28/17 Payroll	-5,357.04
05/05/2017	EFT	Fidelity Investments	4/15/17-4/28/17 Payroll Retirement	-349.76
05/05/2017	2148	Adecco	04/24/2017 - 04/30/2017 Payroll Tammi	-603.00
05/09/2017	2149	Tammi Michali	April Travel Reimbursement	-260.24
05/17/2017	2150	The Nonprofit Partnership	2017 Special Events Grant Application	-2,454.80
05/17/2017		Erie Bank	Bank Fee	-28.49
05/19/2017	2151	Adecco	5/07/17 to 5/14/17 Payroll - Tammi	-1,669.50
05/19/2017	2152	Amanda Burlingham	Communications Services	-3,762.00
05/19/2017	2153	Epic Web Studios	April 2017 Website Support	-2,191.00
05/19/2017	2154	Penn State Erie, The Behrend College	May rent	-1,386.89
05/22/2017	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	04/29/2017 to 05/12/2017 Payroll	-5,724.55
05/22/2017	EFT	Fidelity Investments	04/29/2017 to 05/12/2017	-349.76
05/22/2017	2155	Printing Concepts Inc.	Printing of Annual Report	-208.92
05/23/2017	2156	Urban Erie Community Development Corp	Walking in Black History	-2,500.00
05/25/2017	2157	Ridge Policy Group	April Government Relations	-5,281.25





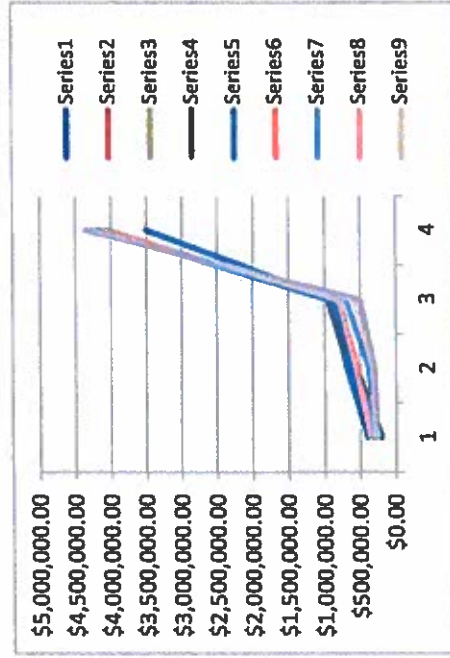
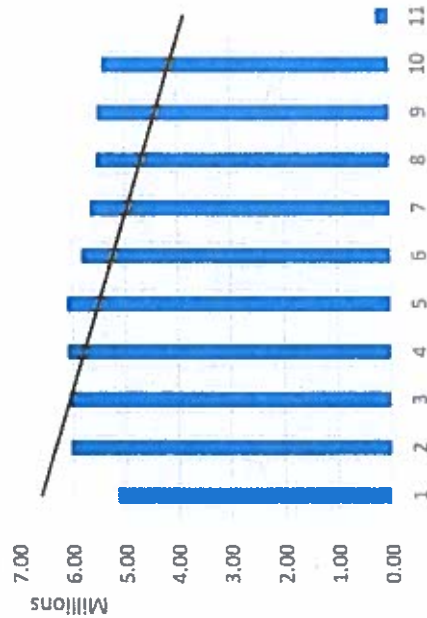
E·C·G·R·A
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**
**FOR
JUNE 2017**

**Revenue Dashboard
by Quarter
2007 - 2017 YTD**



Year	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
2007	201,418.07	562,082.72	867,508.44	3,507,952.54	5,138,961.77
2008	366,211.37	672,936.98	941,125.00	4,063,561.53	6,043,834.88
2009	407,507.87	701,525.21	898,525.69	4,060,932.24	6,068,491.01
2010	385,476.85	665,559.96	962,909.94	4,073,449.24	6,087,395.99
2011	393,440.61	636,302.96	903,421.25	4,166,222.13	6,099,386.95
2012	356,241.99	554,752.50	794,443.73	4,114,583.35	5,820,021.57
2013	318,869.71	374,557.04	701,478.54	4,261,932.00	5,656,837.29
2014	281,934.65	315,628.24	584,126.03	4,350,692.65	5,532,381.57
2015	264,934.67	308,566.19	541,749.43	4,390,710.21	5,505,960.50
2016	271,003.84	300,719.61	507,757.83	4,332,642.04	5,412,123.32
2017	254,570.93				254,570.93
2007 - 2017 YTD	3,501,610.56	5,092,631.41	7,703,045.88	41,322,677.93	57,619,965.78





April 27, 2017

James Sparber
Finance Director
Erie County Courthouse
140 W 6th Street, Room 111
Erie, PA 16501-1011

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act of 2004, as amended, (the Act) the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. The distribution is based on the amount of money collected.

An ACH for the first quarter of 2017 payment in the amount of \$509,141.85 should be deposited in your bank account within 3 - 5 business days. Any reductions to the Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 717-772-4372.

Sincerely,

Shawn Barnes, Director
Bureau of Fiscal Management

Unrestricted 067-001010-042100
Restricted 067-001050-042100

254,470.92
254,470.93
509,141.85

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Yaple
Secretary of the Board
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority ("ECGRA")

FROM: Michael Paris
ECGRA Board Director

DATE: June 7, 2017

RE: Multi-Municipal Grant Award Conflict of Interest

As you are aware, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has been asked to vote to approve the Multi Municipal Grant award at this meeting. One such award goes to the City of Corry Redevelopment Authority and the Authority funds the Corry Neighborhood Initiative with those funds. I have an ongoing professional relationship with the CNI. As such, it would be a conflict of interest for me to vote to approve any funding that would ultimately end up with CNI. Accordingly, I have inquired with ECGRA Solicitor Wachter who has ruled that this presents a conflict of interest, and as such, I am required to abstain from any deliberation or vote on the matter. I ask that this memo be made part of the minutes of this meeting per the requirements of the Pennsylvania Public Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

1813943.v1

Erie Times-News

Study recommends community college for Erie County

By Kevin Flowers

Kevin.Flowers@timesnews.com

There is a strong need for an Erie County community college, according to a 65-page state-required feasibility study.

The study was released publicly Friday morning. It was commissioned by local nonprofit Empower Erie, which has been promoting the creation of a school for roughly eight months.

According to the study, the new school could offer curriculum that includes engineering, welding, computer security, accounting, journalism, fitness and nursing instruction, as well other

courses of study.

The study projects full-time enrollment of 1,525 students in the school's first year. It examined more than 25 potential sites throughout Erie County for the school, including Emerson-Gridley Elementary School, 816 S. Park Ave.

That building is scheduled to be closed as part of the Erie School District's multimillion-dollar consolidation plan.

Previous efforts to organize a local community college failed for lack of a prime financial sponsor; even after a 2009 study recommended that Erie County launch a new

See COLLEGE, A4

which is also required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The study also points out that Erie is the largest metropolitan area in Pennsylvania without direct access to a community college. There are 14 community colleges located throughout the state.

Community college supporters argue that such a school would help Erie build a skilled workforce and provide a more affordable educational option for many area residents than the region's four-year colleges and for-profit trade schools.

Opponents say the school is unnecessary when local colleges and trade schools provide similar courses.

Other findings from the Empower Erie feasibility study:

- The community college could include satellite sites in Girard, Corry, Edinboro and North East.

- The school will need to hire "a highly qualified faculty to effectively deliver its

curriculum." According to U.S. Department of Education statistics, the average yearly salary for full-time faculty at a two-year public institution in Pennsylvania is \$63,539, and community college faculty regularly hold masters or doctorate degrees in relevant fields, or technical certifications for other courses of study.

- The community college would provide "the remedial education many students need to succeed in a four-year degree program. It will also provide an affordable first two years of college to those seeking a bachelor's degree."

- The school would seek formal articulation agreements with other four-year institutions, according to the study, so that student credits earned at a community college would transfer to a four-year school.

- A local community college would benefit adult learners seeking continuing job training and education.

COLLEGE

Continued from A1

community college.

The new study — by Erie-based consulting firm Parker Phillips — similarly concludes that "a stand-alone community college is an essential component" of the Erie region's future in terms of educational opportunity and workforce development.

To reach its conclusions, the Empower Erie study examined population data and trends; local workforce profiles; high school and career training school statistics; socioeconomic data, and the landscape of available postsecondary choices, including the region's five four-year colleges.

The study also surveyed local high school students and employers, and includes data compiled during a recent telephone survey, which revealed that

72 percent of the 500 Erie County residents who were randomly surveyed, or 360 people, said they support the establishment of a community college.

The survey included questions about the need for a community college, the need for specific degrees/curriculum, program offerings and other factors.

Empower Erie's study also looked at staffing requirements; community needs; accreditation; funding sources; and other factors related to establishing a community college.

"Erie's current economic, education and employment climate would be well served by a local community college," the study states.

The feasibility study does not include cost estimates for launching the school, or student tuition estimates. Empower Erie officials said that information will be included in a forthcoming community plan regarding the community college,

Erie County Council in December signed off on allocating \$60,000 toward the community college feasibility study.

Empower Erie's plan has support from the Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy, which collectively have contributed \$300,000 toward the effort.

The Hagen Fund and ECGRA have promised an additional \$3.7 million if Erie County Council ultimately votes to create a community college.

The community college plan is also endorsed by several local labor organizations, including the Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council, Great Lakes Building Trades and AFSGME Local 13.

Kevin Flowers can be reached at 870-1093 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETJflowers.

CITY & REGION

Doug Oathout
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Senate to vote soon on fees

Erie County's share of casino gambling revenue at stake

By Nico Salvatore
nico.salvatori@timesnews.com

State lawmakers from Erie and around Pennsylvania again expressed confidence in recent days that Erie County's share of casino

revenue is not at risk, even as little action has been taken to address the issue before a May 26 deadline.

The matter has to do with a provision in Pennsylvania's gambling law from 2004 that determines how much gambling revenue is distributed to counties and municipalities that host casinos.

Erie County for years has received roughly \$11 million from Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township. Casino funds have become a fixture in municipal budgets here and elsewhere, and have gone toward a variety of community and economic development projects.

But the state Supreme Court in September ruled that the

provision, known as the local share assessment, violates the state Constitution clause that taxes must be imposed uniformly. The court initially gave lawmakers until Jan. 26 to fix the law before extending the deadline to May 26.

Republican state Sen. Mario Scavallo said Erie County's share is going to be preserved.

"I'm working on a way so that Erie County won't be affected," Scavallo said. His district includes parts of Monroe and Northampton counties, as well as the Mount Airy Casino, which brought the lawsuit, arguing that the local share assessment imposed a heavier tax

See CASINO, B2

CASINO

Continued from B1

burden on lower-performing casinos.

Scavallo is chairman of the Senate's Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, where a House bill meant to expand gambling in the state awaits action.

Scavallo said he wants the legislation, House Bill 271, to be voted out of committee as soon as legislators return from a recess on May 22.

The amended bill

will include language to address the local share assessment, Scavallo said. It would then head to the floor to be voted on by the full Senate no later than May 24, he added.

The House could then vote on the bill as is or make amendments of its own, which would require Senate approval before being sent to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk for his signature.

Lawmakers have said that if they miss the deadline they could add a provision to make the new local share assessment retroactive.

State Rep. Pat Harkin, of Erie, D-1st Dist., said

getting the bill passed in the House before the deadline could be difficult.

"It's not contentious, but when you get a solution in one area, someone from another area wants the same or more," Harkin said. "Then you add it in the Senate and it gets sticky. I really believe the solution now won't come until mid- to late June during the budget negotiations."

Still, Harkin said Erie County won't suffer from any delay. The next casino payment isn't due until July and Presque Isle Downs general manager Jeff Favre said the

casino intends to continue making the payments.

"We are committed to paying our fair share of the local share assessment tax," Favre said. "Everyone in Erie County benefits from our success. A significant portion of our tax dollars stay here to help fund assets and programs that are important and vital to our community. We are very proud of our commitment to community outreach and support."

Harkin, who is minority chair of the House Gaming Oversight Committee, said the majority of casinos in the state have made similar pledges.

State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th Dist., said legislators have no intention of waiting to resolve the issue past the deadline.

"At least on the Senate side, the intent is to get the legislation done," Laughlin said. He has said on several occasions that lawmakers working on the legislation have assured him "Erie is going to be taken care of."

Some of the issues holding up the legislation include proposals to legalize internet gambling in the state, as well as the use of video gaming terminals in bars,

restaurants and some airports. Additional revenue from gambling is seen as a way to balance the state budget.

Scavallo said he wants all of the gambling proposals to be addressed in one bill in a way that is fair to the gambling industry and municipalities around the state.

"This is the time to fix it," he said. "It's got to be a comprehensive bill. I want to see casinos survive."

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNSalvatori.

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Erie Times-News

Action on casino funds coming this week

CASINO

Continued from A1

That could change on Monday when committee members will vote on the bill. Senate members are expected to take up the measure.

"We are very mindful of the fast-approaching deadline, and we are cautiously optimistic that we can move a bill to fix the local share issue," said state Rep. Pat Harkin, of Erie, D-1st Dist.

The House Gaming Oversight Committee will consider a bill authored by Harkin — who is the committee's minority chair — that would require casinos to pay a \$10 million fee to

host communities. "Beginning on Monday we hope to move a number of bills out of committee and to the floor, in the hope that the Senate can work with us and get a bill that is fair to all and works for all the areas involved," Harkin said.

Lawmakers in the Senate are expected to address the local share assessment in broader legislation that covers a variety of gambling issues. House Bill 271, now in the Senate's Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, pushes several gambling proposals, including legalizing internet gambling in the state.

The committee's State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th, has said he has been assured on several occasions that Erie County's share

chairman, Sen. Mario Scavallo, R-40th Dist., has said he wants the bill to move out of committee and be voted on by the full Senate by Wednesday.

The House could then vote on the bill or make changes of its own, which would require Senate approval before being sent to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk for his signature.

Scavallo has said he wants to see Erie County's share preserved in full, and is working on a way to make that happen, even if lawmakers miss the deadline.

State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th, has said he has been assured on several occasions that Erie County's share

of casino funds is not at risk.

"The ideal scenario is that (HB 271) comes out of committee on Monday," said Perry Wood, executive director of the Erie

County Gaming Revenue Authority, which distributes half of Erie County's share through gaming programs. "We're about to find out where we stand."

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNSalvatori.

Monday, May 22, 2017

See CASINO, A5

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House committee passes Harkins' bill on casino host fees

By Nelson Sabatieri
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Facing a Friday deadline, lawmakers on Monday moved legislation that would address gambling fees paid to Pennsylvania's communities that host casinos.

The bill, authored by state Rep. Paul Harkins, of Erie, D-1st Dist., would largely preserve the share of would-be casino revenues currently made Erie County receives annually from Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township and uses for a variety of programs and projects.

The county gets roughly \$11 million a year from the casino, but the state Supreme Court in September

ruled that the formula for the host fees violated the state constitution and gave lawmakers until May 26 to come up with a fix.

In addition to other provisions, Harkins' bill would require Category 1 casinos, like Presque Isle Downs, and Category 2 casinos to distribute a flat fee of \$10 million to their host communities.

The legislation, House Bill 1301, was voted out of the House Gaming Oversight Committee by a vote of 18-8 on Monday.

Harkins, who is minority chair of the committee, did not know if the

See CASINO, B7

CASINO

Continued from B1

bill would be withdrawn by the fall House this week.

It's up to the legislative leadership if and when to trim it, Harkins said.

He had introduced the bill in case lawmakers fail to pass omnibus legislation that would address the local share assessment and expand gaming in the state.

A separate bill written by Sen. Dan Claitor, R-1st Dist., would address the local share assessment and expand gaming in the state.

The committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to consider the bill, HB 271.

The committee's chair, Sen. Mark Leland, R-1st Dist., has

asked for a report by the committee's fiscal analyst, Mark Leland, R-1st Dist., on the bill that would preserve Erie County's funds.

If lawmakers miss the Friday deadline, Scrivello

said lawmakers could add a provision to make the new local share assessment retroactive.

The stakes are high in Erie County, and to other municipalities in Pennsylvania that rely on host fees to balance budgets and make up for any ad revenue effect from casinos. But

many casinos in the state, including Presque Isle Downs, have pledged to continue paying the fees even if lawmakers can't agree on a fix before the deadline.

Harkins has said Erie County won't suffer from the loss of the local share assessment until the next casino payment is due in July and Presque Isle Downs general manager Jeff Ferris has said the county intends to continue making the payments.

While the committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to consider the bill, HB 271, the committee's chair, Sen. Mark Leland, R-1st Dist., has

asked for a report by the committee's fiscal analyst, Mark Leland, R-1st Dist., on the bill that would preserve Erie County's funds.

If lawmakers miss the Friday deadline, Scrivello

CITY & REGION

Community college figures explained

By Margie Powers
mpowers@timesnews.com

An Erie County community college would see annual operating expenses and revenues of nearly \$7 million in

its first year, with each of those numbers climbing to roughly \$14 million by its fifth year.

Student tuition at the school would start at \$2,400, rising to to \$2,600 over the

same time frame. The school hopes to privately raise millions of additional dollars to pay for capital improvements and equipment over its first 10 years.

And if Erie County government agrees to sponsor the college, it's possible that in a few years the county can redirect almost \$4 million now earmarked for annual long-term debt payments

COLLEGE

Continued from B1

Community College Plan commissioned by local nonprofit Empower Erie. The plan is a companion research to a feasibility study, also

commissioned by Empower Erie, which was released publicly on May 12.

Empower Erie has been promoting the creation of a school for roughly eight months, and plans to present its research to officials in Harrisburg soon to get the state to sign off on creating and partially funding another community college.

There are 14 community colleges in Pennsylvania. They are funded by a combination of state funding, local dollars, and student tuition.

Previous efforts to organize a local community college failed for lack of a prime financial sponsor, even after a 2009 study recommended that Erie County create one.

Community college supporters argue that such a school would help Erie build a skilled workforce and provide a more affordable educational option for many area residents than the region's four-year colleges and for-profit trade schools.



Opponents say the school is unnecessary when local colleges and trade schools provide similar courses. "One of the concerns for our citizens is a community college," said Erie lawyer Ryan D'Inferno, Empower Erie's chairman and co-founder. "Because it does provide a gateway to our future."

Empower Erie officials explained the feasibility study and the community college plan to local residents Monday evening at a public meeting at the Glisco Library.

Both the feasibility study and the college plan are required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education when it issues a public school launch of a new community college. The feasibility study concluded that there is strong support and a need for the community college in the

Erie region. It also stated that the new school could offer curriculum that includes engineering, welding, computer security, accounting, journalism, fitness and nursing instruction, as well as other courses of study, projected enrollment of 1,505 students in the school's first year, including full-time students, and estimated more than 75 potential sites throughout Erie County for the school, including Emerson-Griddle Elementary School, 816 S. Park Ave., which is slated to be closed as part of the Erie school district's multi-million-dollar consolidation plan.

However, the study did not touch upon the proposed finances related to the new school.

The college plan does, according to "the plan, tuition and fees, bookstore revenues, and Social Security and Medicare reimbursements related to full-time faculty would be among the faculty's revenue sources. Students who attend from outside Erie County would pay twice as much in yearly tuition, the plan states.

Another revenue source, according to the plan, would be per-student reimbursements that community colleges receive from the state.

Those student reimbursements, expected to be at least \$1,800 per student based on what the state pays at other Pennsylvania community colleges, would bring the new college roughly \$1.4 million in its first year, and climb to \$2.8 million by the fifth year, according to estimates in the college plan.

Local certified public accountant Joe Maloney, who advises Erie County Council on financial matters, said that all revenues and expense projections included in the plan were developed internally. Maloney worked with Empower Erie consultants on the financial data.

"This is a very conservative look at the finance end," Maloney said.

Asked about local funding for the school, Maloney said the county is extremely spending, nearly \$4 million to make debt payments related to capital improvements that include the \$47-million expansion of Erie Insurance Arena and Erie International Airport's \$80.5-million runway extension.

Those bond payments will be finished by 2020, Maloney said, so if Erie County Council agrees, that money could be "shifted over" and

used to help fund the community college.

The community college plan forecasts local share funding of \$2.2 million in the school's first year, increasing to \$3.5 million in its fifth year.

And Maloney mentioned that Empower Erie's plan has support from the Erie County Foundation, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Susan Hirt Higgen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy, which collectively have contributed \$300,000 toward the effort.

The Higgen Fund and RCGR have provided an additional \$1.7 million. The County Council ultimately will create a community college.

Erie County Councilman Andre Horton, Kemp was Erie's chief financial officer, said he's confident a majority of the college plan will support the college plan.

"We got four votes in my quarter," said Horton, who called community colleges necessary "freedom options" for four-year colleges and universities.

Kemp Powers can be reached at 870-1693 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at @mpowers.com. @ErieNews

Erie Times-News

Lawmakers miss deadline to fix casino host fees

By Nico Salvatore
n.salvatore@timesnews.com

The state legislature has missed a court-imposed deadline to fix an unconstitutional provision in Pennsylvania's gambling law that has provided Erie County with roughly \$11 million of casino funds annually.

Lawmaker had through Friday to approve legislation addressing fees paid to communities that host casinos, but the state House failed to act on an amended bill sent back from the Senate this week that largely preserves the share Erie County gets each year from Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township.

Councils and municipal officials around the state have come to rely on



Wood

casino payments to balance budgets and fund a variety of projects and programs. The host fees also help communities deal with the adverse effects of a casino.

Now, casinos are no longer obligated to make the payments.

But local lawmakers have indicated that there might not be cause for concern. The House is likely to take up the legislation, House Bill 271, soon after reconvening on June 5.

See CASINO, A5

CASINO

Continued from A1

"Anything that it does will be retroactive to January 1," said state Rep. Pat Harkin, of Erie, D-1st Dist.

In addition, Presque Isle Downs manager Jeff Perry has said the casino will continue making payments.

Erie County's share is split between county government and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, which distributes casino funds through grant programs.

Perry Wood, executive

director of the Gaming Revenue Authority, said the authority was pleased the Senate passed HB 271. He did not blame the House for not acting on the bill this week.

"As long as the House passed the Senate version by the end of June, EGCRA, Erie County and other communities that host casinos will not see an interruption in local share revenue."

Wood said. "That's the best outcome we could have hoped for and that's exactly what we've worked for."

At issue is the 2004 gambling law's local share assessment, which

outlines how casino revenue is distributed to host communities. In September, the state Supreme Court ruled that the formula violated a provision in the state constitution that prohibits unequal taxation.

Under HB 271, the fee structure would be uniform for all casinos, said State Sen. Dan Laughlin, who worked for the bill. The bill ties the local share assessment to the state's not machine license fee instead of slots revenue, guaranteeing Erie County would receive \$10 million annually.

"This is an issue that has wide-ranging impacts not only for

to result in additional changes to the bill. "At this point, it will come down to what is added by certain members," said Harkin, who is minority chair of the House Gaming Oversight Committee. "Things will be included to get votes from specific areas."

A spokesman said Gov. Tom Wolf was disappointed that the legislature failed to fix the local share assessment

independently by the deadline. "The revenues hopeful that they do so soon is possible," Wolf spokesman J. Abbott said. "We understand the importance of these fees to local communities and want the General Assembly to maintain them going forward."

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/NTNsalvatore.

Senate passes bill to preserve Erie County casino fees

By Nico Salvatore
n.salvatore@timesnews.com

State lawmakers on Wednesday got a little closer to fixing an unconstitutional formula in Pennsylvania's gambling law that determines how funds are distributed to counties and municipalities that host casinos.

By a vote of 38-12, the state Senate returned a bill to the House that would largely preserve the share Erie County gets each year from Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township.

Lawmakers are up against a Friday deadline imposed by the state Supreme Court to address the formula, known as the local share assessment. The

CASINO

Continued from B1

the USA to the state's slot machine license fee for most of Pennsylvania's casinos, including Presque Isle Downs.

"This is an issue that has wide-ranging impacts not only for Erie, but for communities across Pennsylvania that receive LSAs," said Laughlin, of Millersburg, Township, R-491B Dist. "It was incumbent upon the General Assembly and the Wolf Administration to finalize legislation that will ensure the flow of funding from the casinos to counties and local entities continues unabated."

The legislation had been voted out of two Senate committees on Tuesday, it was not immediately clear when the House would take up the bill, but local lawmakers, including state Rep. Pat Harkin,

court ruled in September that the USA in the 2004 law violated the uniformity clause in the state constitution. State Sen. Dan Laughlin, who voted in favor of the new legislation, House Bill 271, said it establishes a structure that is uniform for all casinos regardless of annual net revenues and should meet conditions set by the court.

Erie County, which uses casino funds for a variety of projects and programs, would be guaranteed \$10 million annually. Under the current law, the funds are a share of net machine revenues; HB 271 uses

the presence of casinos. "Presque Isle Downs is a good neighbor and has indicated that it will continue its support for the community, but not every community is that fortunate," Laughlin said. "If we did not meet the court-imposed deadline and casinos were to withhold local share funding, the burden of additional financial costs would fall directly on taxpayers in many communities. That's what needs fixing a legally sound solution to this issue, a matter of utmost importance."

In addition to the local share assessment, HB 271 includes a host of provisions to expand gambling in the state. It would legalize various forms of internet gambling and set up a new marketing account for the industry.

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/NTNsalvatore.

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County to back college plan

With four council votes, community college finds much-needed sponsor

By Nico Salvatore and Kevin Flowers
 nico.salvatore@erietimesnews.com
 and kevin.flowers@erietimesnews.com

Don't expect a repeat of 2010. Erie County Council appears to have enough

votes to move forward with local sponsorship of a proposed Erie County community college.

That means the county would contribute an annual share of funds to keep the college open.

County Council Chairman Jay Breneman said his intent is to have the measure on council's agenda at its next meeting, scheduled for June 13, and four of council's

seven members — Breneman, Kathy Fatica, Andrea Horton, and Flora Leone — said they intend to vote in favor of it.

Passage of the measure would come seven years after a majority of council members voted against local sponsorship.

Since then, the makeup of council has changed, and at least one councilman who voted against it then has

changed his view.

Councilwoman Carol Loll said she will vote against it, while Councilman Kyle Foust intends to abstain.

Councilman Ed DiMattio, long a skeptic of the proposal, said he has yet to make up his mind.

"After decades of dragging our feet, Erie now stands ready to provide a

"I have two kids and both of them moved out of the area after college because they didn't feel there was opportunity in this area. We don't want to see this community continue to go downhill."

Flora Leone, Erie County Council member

See COLLEGE, A9

COLLEGE

Continued from A1

much-needed community college," Breneman said. "Through experience, research, and interviews with citizens, educators, and employers, I look forward to helping move this transformational project ahead."

A recently released plan for the community college forecasts local share funding of \$2.2 million in the first year, increasing to \$3.5 million by the fifth year. County officials have said funding now earmarked for long-term debt payments can be redirected once the debts are paid off to cover the state-required local share of the college's funding.

Horton said several members of County Council have reviewed financial projections for the college and are comfortable with them.

"We find it intriguing enough to support," said Horton, who is co-chairman of Empower Erie, a local nonprofit that commissioned the plan as well as a college feasibility study. Horton has worked behind the scenes for more than a year to build majority support among his colleagues for community college sponsorship.

First elected to County Council in 2013, Horton pledged to push for a community college as

part of his campaign. The Democrat is unopposed in the Nov. 7 general election and is virtually assured of another four-year term. Horton said local officials in recent years "have invested in asphalt and concrete. We think it's time to invest in our human capital."

Horton also said "no community can brand itself as being vibrant and progressive" without the kind of educational option a community college provides.

"The people in the Erie region should be excited about it," Horton said. "It symbolizes hope."

Fatica, a former Erie County public nurse, said she has seen firsthand the type of people who would benefit from a community college.

"I had clients in the inner city. I had clients in the suburban areas, the rural areas," she said. "The one common thread that I saw was the inability to get out poverty ... and get into higher education with all the barriers that were in place."

Leone, the panel's longest-tenured member, voted against county sponsorship of a community college in 2010. At that time, Leone — a member of County Council since 1978 — was concerned about the county being responsible for millions of dollars in annual operating costs related to the school.

Leone said his view is different now, in part because he's watched his

own adult children leave the Erie area because of a lack of job opportunities.

"What I see here is an opportunity to help some of the people who still live in this community," Leone said. "We can try to get them into a community college and I would certainly like to have people better trained for jobs. And I think it would help to get some type of economic development coming here."

"I have two kids and both of them moved out of the area after college because they didn't feel there was opportunity in this area," Leone added. "We don't want to see this community continue to go downhill."

One argument in favor of the community college is that it will serve as a "feeder system" for the existing colleges in the Erie region, that offer traditional, four-year degrees.

Loll said there is not a need for a community college at the moment when those schools are more than capable of getting the job done. But that is not all.

"You've got graduating students that have no jobs to go to now," she said. "The people of Erie County would be paying for the education of those who will leave town because they can't find jobs. They're doing this in a totally reverse manner."

Foust said he would likely abstain from a sponsorship vote, as he did in 2010 when County

Council rejected sponsoring the school.

Foust, the director of internship programs at Mercyhurst University, said he believes a community college would compete with his employer.

"I don't see the circumstances being really any different from they were then," Foust said.

DiMattio said he intends to continue reviewing the feasibility study and college plan before making a decision. He took issue with the funding proposal.

"I still don't know how we're paying for it," he said. "I understand the logic. But that's like saying we'll keep our credit card maxed out at all times. I don't think that's wise."

DiMattio also said he is reluctant to back local sponsorship when it is not clear if state funding is going to be available.

"We have 14 community colleges statewide, and I keep hearing this isn't going to happen because they will fight it to the death," he said.

Appealing to the state will be the next step after

council approval, said Empower Erie chairman Ron DiNicola.

He said he plans to attend the June 13 meeting because he has been told the council vote could happen that day.

"If that happens, our goal is to present a sponsorship resolution, and community college plan to (Harrisburg officials) swiftly."

Council will meet at 7

p.m. June 13 at Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Road.

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNsalvatore.

Kevin Flowers can be reached at 870-1693 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNflowers.

VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

House must not botch gaming law

The issue: State House misses deadline
Our view: Casino host fee fix needed

We would breathe a little easier if lawmakers were working only to correct the portion of the state's casino host fee law, declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court in September.

Instead, lawmakers — facing of a growing state budget deficit — have chosen to tether the host fee legislative fix to sweeping legislation that greatly expands legalized gaming in the state in hopes of generating up to \$150 million in revenue.

The Senate passed House Bill 271 by the May 26 deadline set by the Supreme Court. The bill rightly sets a uniform fee structure for all casinos and would deliver about \$10 million to Erie County annually.

Now overdue, the casino host fee fix is headed next to the House of Representatives, where competing interests could alter key provisions or worse, cause it to falter or stall, because it is tied to such extensive change.

This must not happen. HB 271 would, among other things: legalize internet gaming in the state, permit gambling kiosks in airports, and enable the state Department of Revenue to sell lottery tickets over the Internet.

However the House chooses to handle the expansion of legalized gaming, casino host communities must be made whole and promptly.

The Supreme Court's ruling put in jeopardy roughly \$11 million that Erie County, Summit Township and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority receive from Presque Isle Downs & Casino. The money is meant to be compensation for the vices legalized gambling bring to a community, a reality played out in local court cases, including thefts driven by gambling addictions. It also provides needed revenue to cover increased demand for municipal services, including police and fire, as well as expanded infrastructure.

The money dispersed locally has helped support key economic development projects, like the Erie International Airport runway extension. ECGRA reports that between 2009 and 2016, it invested more than \$38 million in local share gaming revenue in "education, workforce development, neighborhood and municipal innovation, inner-city renewal, business growth, and community and cultural assets."

It is reassuring that local lawmakers say the House will take up this bill when it reconvenes on June 5, as detailed by Erie Times-News reporter Nico Salvatore.

And Presque Isle Downs & Casino General Manager Jeff Favre, in a web-time show of good faith, has said the casino will continue to pay the fee while lawmakers work to amend legislation. He should not have to wait long.

Gov. Tom Wolf has voiced support for HB 271. Whatever changes members of the House seek to make to the bill, the host fee provisions should not be among them.

This process has already dragged past two deadlines set by the Supreme Court. Get it done.

May 26, 2017

How you can be a part of Summer JAM

When I visit businesses around Erie County, I sometimes hear a common refrain from employers: They are looking for workers who are responsible, dedicated and skilled — or at least eager to learn.

That's one reason that I'm so proud to be launching a fourth year of Erie County's Summer Jobs and More program, which is funded by Erie County, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Erie Community Foundation, as well as by contributions from several other community partners.

Summer JAM aims to teach young people just the sort of life lessons that they need to be valuable employees.

Erie County residents ages 16-21 who meet certain income requirements (their household income must be within 235 percent of federal poverty guidelines) are invited to apply for Summer JAM. After training sessions, the program places the young participants with an Erie County employer — giving them the opportunity both to learn and to earn.

Of course, for any young person, a paycheck is a driving force. But what these students experience during the six-week Summer JAM program is priceless. It's the experience of learning about a business, of working as part of a team, and of building up their own skills to help them get a solid start on their futures.

But don't take my word on it. This is what a few of last year's young participants had to say:

"It taught me life skills. The kind of things you need to succeed in life — job etiquette, being on time, things of that nature," said one young man, who was wrapping up his second summer in the program. "What I enjoyed most was being around people, making connections, learning the value of doing your job well."

And from a young woman who participated in the program: "I learned ... how to be an adult and how to work in a team and give respect to your supervisor — to listen to your team and to bring ideas together."

All of that starts with the "soft skills" training. There, the young people learn about respect and responsibility, about résumés and interviews, about teamwork and accountability. They are then asked to bring those skills with them as they are placed with an employer. They commit to that employer — commit to being a good employee, to being eager to learn, to being a valuable part of the company's team.

Those employers, too, are an essential component of the equation. They provide a position for a young person — likely a young person with little to no work experience. And they promise to help guide that worker, as well as to help the young person learn more about the industry and its opportunities.

Last year, 42 employers from across Erie County hosted Summer JAM participants. This year, we are hoping not only to see all of those employers return, but also to see that number grow —

particularly among employers cared outside the city of Erie.

That falls in line with another goal of this year's program, which is to have a greater percentage of young participants come from points around the county. Last year, about 30 percent of participants were from outside the city of Erie. We'd like to see that come more of a 50-50 split.

To date, more than 415 participants have successfully completed the Summer JAM program. This year, we hope to add 175 more young people to that total. Also new this year is an opportunity for Summer JAM participants to participate in a community improvement project.

If you are a parent of a young person, or a young person yourself, consider applying for the Summer JAM program. As you're an employer, consider joining the program by hosting a young worker at your business.

Together, all of us — employers, participants and employees — are creating an atmosphere that is helping our young people take their future course. We are investing in the future of our communities, as we help young people take the first steps into adulthood.

Or, as another young Summer JAM participant summarized: "It's good for your future. It prepares you for real life." For more information, contact Summer JAM at www.getac.org/summer-jam or call Kevin Arrington at 5771.

JUNE 2017 // LAKE ERIE LIFESTYLE |

On scene



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Nonprofits receive grants

Erie Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), awarded more than \$3.7 million in grants at a reception held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. More than a dozen area nonprofits receiving grants.

COMMUNITY ALBUM



Cycle 1 Helping Today Grant reception recently held at Ridge Center

The Erie Community Foundation and Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority recently awarded grants totaling more than \$3.7 million to local nonprofits. The Regional Science Consortium received a grant to preserve and document shipwreck sites. On hand for a photo were, from left, Matt Dickey, owner, Diver World; Jéanette Schears, director, Regional Science Consortium; Mike Batchelor, president, The Erie Community Foundation; Jerry Skrypzak, president, S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie; Amber Stihwik, Regional Science Consortium; and Dave Boughton, PA Sea Grant. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Corry Journal, Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Senate passes gaming revenue bill; ECGRA awaits House vote

BY KIM LUX
klux@thecorryjournal.com

Officials with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority are starting to breathe a sigh of relief after a bill protecting gaming revenue was passed by the Pennsylvania Senate Appropriations Committee on May 23.

In September 2016, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided it was unconstitutional for casinos to pay millions in host fees to their local communities. Since then, ECGRA and local government officials have been working to save gaming revenue, whose impact is felt countywide.

"We're very happy that the Senate has passed the bill," said ECGRA Chairman Dave Sample of Corry. "Now, we'll just have to wait on the House."

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives is expected to vote on the bill this week.

"It's very favorable to those involved," Sample said con-

cerning the bill. "We've been able to give a lot of money to the Corry area through ECGRA, and we're happy that's not changing. It was a little dicey there for awhile, but we're happy progress is being made to save gaming revenue."

ECGRA currently receives between \$5 and \$6 million from Presque Isle Downs & Casino each year. This money funds multiple grants for Erie County nonprofits.

The organization gives out hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the grants are split into three categories, the Mission Main Street grants, the Special Events grants and the Community Assets grants.

ECGRA currently provides grant money to many Corry nonprofits including the Corry Area Historical Society, the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce, the Corry Community Foundation and Impact Corry.



mission empower

Educational Advocacy for the Inclusion of Youth

1611 Peach Street • Suite 120 • Erie, PA 16501

phone: (814) 825-0788

www.MissionEmpower.org

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road STE 201
Erie, PA 16510

May 30, 2017

Dear Mr. Woods, ECGRA Staff and Board of Trustees:

Thank you for the recent grant for Mission Empower's redesigning of our facilities and training room. We greatly appreciate Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's investment in our Erie community and particularly Mission Empower. Because of your grant, we can better reach our mission of empowering children and youth with disabilities, their families, and the greater Erie community, in order that all may reach their potential and be leaders in their community. Thank you again for your financial support.

With warm gratitude,

Jill Hrinda-Patten

Executive Director

Mikki Myers

Board President



April 20, 2017

ECGRA
Perry Wood
5240 Knowledge Pkwy Ste A
Erie, PA 16510-4658

Dear Perry,

Thank you so much for supporting the homeless women and children at Mercy Center for Women. With your generous gift of \$2,310.30 as a Special Event Grant, Mercy Center will be able to give our clients the help they need. Your belief in MCW helps us support our residents as they work on becoming self-sufficient.

Mercy Center's programs are designed to equip and empower women to attain long-term jobs and permanent housing. Our residents work one-on-one with a case manager to complete a program specifically designed for her to meet her individual goals. We work hard to help these families interrupt the cycle of poverty that they have lived in for so long. The staff and the residents are all very grateful for your support.

Thank you again for your generosity, and make sure to look us up on Facebook or our website mcwerie.org to find out about our upcoming events!

Sincerely,


Jennie Hagerty
Executive Director

*Dear Perry,
We truly appreciate your support of non-profits. ECGRA has done amazing things for our Erie community.
Kindly,
Jennie*



**JOINT REGIONAL ASSETS &
STRATEGIC PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

5240 KNOWLEDGE PARKWAY
ERIE, PA 16510
May 30, 2017
11:30 – 1:30 pm

AGENDA

1. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Ignite Erie Budget Revisions
 - b. Community College

2. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. MMC Grants
 - b. MRI Applications

3. ADJOURNMENT

Attendance: Bagnoni, Barney, Paris, Peters, Sample, Yapple, Breneman, Maggio, Michale, Wood

Notes:

Ignite Erie

- Committee receives a briefing on the progress of Ignite Erie.
- Ignite is asking for a budget amendment to the extent outlined in the attachment.
- **Committee recommends to accept the budget revision under Old Business.**

Community College

- The Committee reviewed two documents: The Feasibility Report & the draft Community Action Plan
- The following is a summary of some points that were discussed and questions asked:
- Transfer of credits to four year institutions particularly on engineering pathway.
- Who determines who can go? Grade average?
- Access to Pell is based on the CC having accreditation. Where will you gain accreditation in early years?
- College without walls was tried, how is this different?
- Will the Erie CC get its fair share of CC funding from PDE?
- Empower Erie will give a presentation at the June 8th board meeting. Having Joe Maloney at the June 8th presentation is essential.

MMC Grants

- MMC is now undersubscribed for 2 years in a row.
- Lake City Borough's application is ineligible.
- West County Recycling, Erie Area COG, Jefferson Educational Society, & Erie County Redevelopment Authority were deemed to be eligible.
- Board does not want to give up on the grant concept. Look to the JES and Council of Governments to bring in speakers to build capacity with local government leaders.
- Could we find a way to get the COG to play a technical assistance role for future applicants? Are they capable of doing so?

- **Committee recommends funding the 4 eligible applications.**

MRI Screening

- In Sept 2014, ECGRA adopted an Impact Investing Policy
- Its purpose was to recognize the limitations of grantmaking and the transformational possibilities of larger investments
- Central to our thinking was to
 - Create jobs
 - Regional competitiveness
 - Address poverty through an economic lens
 - Fill the gaps in the financing system for business at all ends of the spectrum (show the Financing Slide)
- In April 2017, we revised that the Policy to include a new asset class: Community Facilities. CF are “nonprofit owned and operated publicly accessible facilities that create an economic impact.”
- Before us today are 3 MRI
 - 2 Alternative Investments meet most of the qualifications, but must be considered in the alternative
 - 1 Community Facility applying in the alternative
- Each MRI proposal has been vetted by the staff for completeness and consistency with the Policy.

1855 Capital

Overview:

- Focus on startups/venture seed capital that are somehow associated with the Penn State system, broadly defined.
- Strong ties to our Ignite partners Ben Franklin Technology Partners & Penn State University system.
- Introduction took place through Chancellor Ralph Ford.
- Integration into the ecosystem is possible, they have expressed an interest.
- Steve Brawley is listed as a Principal. John Sider is an advisor to the fund.

Pre-Qualification

- This is a new fund. Asset managers have 25 years + in managing venture.
- In vetting these asset managers, Penn State selected two individuals with a track record of successful venture investing.

- Experience in Erie County is limited to their strong ties with Ben Franklin & Penn State
- 1855 has no plans to put an office in Erie County. They count their Ben Franklin relationship as such.

Financials

- They expect to raise a \$10mm fund
- Current investors: PA at 2mm, PSU at 1mm, Alumni at 1mm, High Net worth Alumni at another 1mm – that's half the fund in a small number of investors
- No current or pending litigation

Recommendation: 1855 is a risk because it is a startup fund, hence their application in the alternative. However, PSU main campus has expressed confidence in both the managers and the concept of an alumni fueled fund that assists tech startups in PA. 1855 has requested that we consider a \$1mm investment, which would put us at 10% of the fund. That seems unnecessarily risky. Staff recommends a \$500,000 investment, the terms of which should be negotiated by executive director and solicitor.

- We need to discuss with PVP that we've reduced their allocation by \$1mm.
- **Committee recommends an MRI for 1855 Capital not to exceed 500k.**

Blue Highway Capital Partners

Overview

- RBIC – Rural Business Investment Corporation, a designation of the Community Reinvestment Act & USDA.
- Part of a new movement to invest in geographies that are underserved by venture capital.
- Sweet spot are companies with 5-50mm in revenue.

Pre-Qualification

- Fund is new. Asset managers have significant experience in both venture and community banking.
- These managers have been vetted by the USDA for investment designation. We are not sure what that is worth. Managers have extensive experience in

multiple asset classes, but we have no way of learning more about their successes other than the information provided in this packet.

Financials

- Total projected Fund size 75mm
- RBIC requires 75% of their portfolio be with rural businesses in areas designated by the USD
- 50% must be with the SBA definition of small enterprises
- The match relies heavily on banks that need CRA credits

Recommendation: RBICs clearly fit within the Impact Investing Policy. However, the state has decided to take a pass. The footprint of Blue Highway is New York & Pennsylvania making it large enough for a 75mm fund, yet focused enough on a targeted demographic of Erie County business. We should discuss if an investment is appropriate from ECGRA. How large would it need to be to get new money flowing into Erie County?

- If ECGRA invests, what guarantee can BHC give us that they will leverage their funds to invest in Erie County?
- What has BHC done to understand the Erie market?
- How is BHC coming with the initial raise?
- **Committee tables a decision on BHC.**

Greater Regional Erie Athletic Team Training Inc

Overview

- The revitalization of the Family First Sports Park, which transitions it from privately held to a 501c3 nonprofit operation.
- Phase I – dual pad ice arena to replace soccer fields & renovation of golf dome into practice fields
- Phase II – replace outdoor fields

Pre-Qualification

- This is a new startup nonprofit.
- There is no record of success by the nonprofit in managing a community facility. They are relying on their relationship with Rink Management Services for such experience
- Experience in Erie County is explained through their affiliate relationships.

- Location is in Erie County.

Financials

- All financial projections are based on pro forma from Rink Management.
- They secured a 3mm grant from DCED/RCAP.
- Summit Township has provided a 500k grant.
- At this time, no private sector investment partners.
- No current or pending litigation.

Recommendation: This project demonstrates significant community support via affiliate youth organizations that have committed to utilize the facility once completed. The financials are highly risky for a facility that not been able to sustain itself with a for-profit model. A nonprofit model may be successful given the large subsidy from the Commonwealth. If the board considers an MRI, staff recommends exploring a mix of grant/loan. As ECGRA's first potential community facilities MRI, it should be noted that we are relying heavily on the financial projections of a management service that is very experienced, but also stands to benefit financially from the project's funding success.

- Do the numbers work financially?
- Committee believes we should be co-first position on the debt financing.
- 3 Key questions the committee would like to know:
 - What are the construction costs?
 - What does the appraisal say?
 - Do ice rinks require an ongoing public subsidy?
- **Committee tables a decision on GREAT.**

Ignite Erie Industry+University Business Acceleration Collaborative Budget Change Proposal: Innovation Beehive Network

Current state of the Ignite Erie Industry+University Collaborative

The partners of the Ignite Erie Industry+University Collaborative truly appreciate the support of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. At its inception, the project sought to build stronger collaborative bridges between the region's universities, increase innovation activity, and develop a more robust ecosystem for innovation and product development. As the ecosystem evolves and partners learn more about opportunities and challenges to increased collaboration, the project has evolved as well. Completing the second year of the ECGRA funded Ignite Erie Industry+University Collaborative, there have been highly successful and productive programs and also programs that have not generated the level of activity that were anticipated. Below details notable successes and challenges, new activities that will boost the impact of the most effective programs without diminishing the capability of the less active ones to continue to work, and changes to the budget to reflect those activities.

Since the Collaborative began operation, it has organized and executed five collaborative "intern mashup" projects involving faculty from all four universities, leveraging funds from three additional outside sources, and engaging dozens of students. Though the advantages of establishing these new collaborations have been invaluable, the inflow of projects both from faculty and from industry have been slower than expected. This is due to several factors ranging from projects that are either too capability-specific to involve multiple universities or, conversely, projects that are simple and therefore better served by the Innovation Commons program.

Quickstarter, Mercyhurst University's crowd-funding campaign program has been highly utilized and maintains a high success rate. To date, there have been eleven collaborative Quickstarter campaigns, engaging 36 students, supplying Erie entrepreneurs with \$67,897 in funding. Quickstarter was also able to attract \$45,000 of matching funds from Ben Franklin Technology Partners for research to improve their methods. Furthermore, Quickstarter boasts still other campaigns that were done without collaborations. One strong factor contributing to its success is its capability of moving forward with no cost to the client while still maintaining collaboration between students from different universities in the region.

At a level of still easier access, Innovation Commons, Penn State Behrend's open product design and rapid prototyping center, has grown in activity from a mere three projects in Q1 of 2016 to reach a current cumulative count of 36, not including interactions that were quickly referred to others within Erie's economic development community. Innovation Commons has also made itself available for technical and instructive service to the 19 high schools that were provided with 3D printers by the Collaborative. The rapid rise in projects is attributed not only to the capability of the center to serve educational courses, individual entrepreneurs, and established businesses, but also to the ease by which clients can access the service. One can literally walk in and begin. The Innovation Commons also hosts the region's first Innovation Beehive which offers a place for service providers to meet with clients and budding businesses to meet with their teams. This maintains the opportunity for collaborations, such as the presence of a Gannon SBDC intern at the Innovation Commons every Friday. Taken together, these services offer a complement to Erie's entrepreneurial community. Proliferation of similar services will strengthen that community. The whole will be worth more than the sum of its parts. Therefore, the Collaborative intends to initiate the development of three new Innovation Beehive sites in Erie County, at each of the three remaining universities. This effort comprehensively supports the first Initiative of the Council of University Presidents which states that the four universities will "collaborate on the development of joint or collaborative incubators and [build] cooperation among existing entrepreneurship programs to establish a seamless environment for growing new companies." This novel approach to entrepreneurship support also generates a significant new arena for practical educational experiences for students, further bolsters collaboration between the region's universities, and creates an even more open-armed invitation to the community to visit and work with the universities.

The partnership is now maturing. As such, it is now time to modify the grant partners to fully include Gannon University and Edinboro University for the remainder of the grant period. While always at the table in an advisory capacity, it is now desired to formalize all four universities in partnership. The partnership will also be requesting the second installment of the award. For the second installment, the partnership proposes that \$50,000 be offered to each Edinboro University, Gannon University, and Mercyhurst University to match an equal investment by each to build their own Beehives. \$37,000 will also be provided to Penn State Behrend's Innovation Commons, which is \$50,000 less than which has already been invested by the collaborative in that site. Each center will be unique by leveraging a strength of

its university but unified by hosting complementary services along the product development pathway. The resulting network of sites will offer a more comprehensive service portfolio that will also broaden the range of eligible clients.

Gannon University's site will be the location for a Business Innovation Beehive. With the presence of the Erie Technology Incubator (ETI) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Gannon is well positioned to develop a mixed use space that directs ideas to business application. The initial designated space will be adjacent to the newly renovated Biomedical Engineering Lab within Gannon's Center for Advanced Engineering. This approximately 3,000 square foot area contains ample space for project development and already contains many basic amenities for group use (computers, 3-D printers, etc.). Moreover, the space is in close proximity to ETI and SBDC and is also a central point for the intersection of STEM and health professions programs. Given the high number of projects that typically arise within these vocational fields, this location provides an added value of interaction with faculty experts in these areas. As the Business Innovation Beehive at Gannon develops and expands, a change in location to the Knight Tower space that is not yet renovated will be considered. Funding through Ignite Erie will provide personnel, primarily work-study students. It will also support stipends for visiting professional speakers providing practical seminars in the area of business development.

Edinboro University proposes to develop a Multimedia Design Maker Space within its Forbes Library located on the Edinboro campus. This faculty and student run maker space will have three primary functions. The space will provide resources and support to guide students, faculty and staff of the collaborative university partners to create multimedia design projects from pre to post production. Resources will be available for portfolio development for faculty, staff and students. In addition, faculty and students will be able to utilize the space to create interdepartmental and multi-university synergies related to like-minded projects and research endeavors. As part of this phase, EU is also developing a research blog that will allow faculty and students at all universities to post their research and ideas in blog format. The center will also provide resources and support to the community to use creative design tools and programs to develop multimedia projects geared towards business creation or expansion. Finally, the center will provide credit and non-credit bearing continuing education opportunities to community members on the use of creative design software and programs. EU will use the Maker Space to provide instruction in a variety of creative avenues to increase digital literacy. In addition to providing education to the community regarding the use of creative technology, EU will create programs that also embrace the history of artistic techniques including printmaking, 35-millimeter film development, framing and matting and drafting. The space will also provide, six computers with Adobe software, two 32D printers, two high end color printers, a dark room with developing tools, a frame cutter, two drafting tables, work stations, seating, and a woodworking station.

Mercyhurst University's center will further complement this system by leveraging the oldest and largest intelligence program in the world to provide intelligence products to help product developers make more informed decisions on their pathway toward commercialization. This center will customize market studies to address the needs of the client and the appropriate methodologies to get at the answers. For example, a new entrepreneur has a new "Widget" machine and wants to enter the marketplace but doesn't know how. The faculty member and a team of students would outline methodologies to assist the entrepreneur such as: A) Identify leading "Widget" makers for large, medium, and small sized businesses in the appropriate NAICS code, B) Produce Corporate Profiles for the top three manufacturers in each Widget business size; C) Compose a case study of a "Widget" maker that successfully entered the market; D) Develop a market matrix of geographies that are most likely to need "Widget" makers with accommodating lead sheets for each region. This space will also provide cutting edge methods for presentation of these products to clients.

Funds provided by the Ignite Erie Collaborative for these activities will immediately be leveraged as match required for application to the Appalachian Regional Commission for a grant in the amount of \$250,000. These funds will combine with Ignite Erie funds to ensure a robust and effective launch of the Beehive Network. Feedback from ARC and DCED regarding this application has been very encouraging. With the growth of these Beehive nodes through funding from ARC and the Ignite Erie Collaborative, the partners anticipate the following impact figures in addition to the construction of the services themselves:

Outputs	Expected	Outcomes	Expected
Multi-site projects	30	Student collaborators	30
Additional Dollars leveraged	500,000	Clients Served	60
University courses engaged	12	Technology Disclosures/Patents	3
Prototypes developed/advanced	20	Businesses founded	5
Business plans drafted	30	Internships generated	10
Intelligence products developed	7	Products/Services brought to market	5
Marketing & Promotion products developed	15		

Proposed activity and budget changes

Based on the data for the first two years, and the improved collaborative environment, the following changes to the grant and its budget are requested:

1. Edinboro University and Gannon University will be added as partners.
2. Edinboro University and Gannon University will each receive a voting seat on the Executive Board.
3. A new budget section will be added named "Innovation Beehive" containing \$187,000, filled by shifting \$40,000 from the \$60,000 bucket originally assigned to the networking business contest and by merging the business accelerator and "intern mashup" funds for simplicity, then moving \$147,000 from there to this new initiative, leaving approximately \$97,000 to continue those collaborations. (See budget below)
4. From the Innovation Beehive fund, \$50,000 will be provided to each Edinboro University, Gannon University, and Mercyhurst University to help build Innovation Beehive sites, each designed by their respective universities, leveraging their own strengths, and complementing the Beehive as a system designed to support innovation and both individual and corporate entrepreneurship. \$37,000 will be provided to Penn State Behrend for further development of the Innovation Commons. This is \$50,000 minus dollars already invested by Ignite Erie for equipment. For each site to receive these funds, they must provide an equal or greater cash match.
5. Funding for Quickstarter campaigns will be increased from \$2,000 per project to \$2,500 per project to offset higher-than-anticipated costs.

Actual Total Expenses and Proposal (as of March 1st):

Budget Category	Budgeted	Spent	Remains	New Allocation	Total Allocated	Projected Total Costs
Networking	25,000	(10,090)	14,910	(5,000)	9,910	\$20,000
Grant Coordinator	23,000	*(18,700)	*4,300	23,000	*27,300	\$70,000
Innovation Teams	91,000	(34,000)	57,000	40,488	97,488	\$257,488
Quickstarter	60,000	*(24,000)	36,000	0	36,000	\$130,000
Intern Mashup	31,000	(10,000)	21,000	40,488	61,488	\$107,000
Business Innovation & Accelerator	46,000	(5,512)	40,488	(30,488)	10,000	\$20,512
Microgrants	41,000	(5,512)	35,488	(25,488)	9,000	\$5,512
Legal Assistance	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	\$15,000
Equipment	90,000	(80,264)	9,736	35,000	44,736	\$220,000
Innovation Beehive	0	0	0	187,000	187,000	\$187,000
Mercyhurst University	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	\$50,000
Gannon University	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	\$50,000
Edinboro University	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	\$50,000
Penn State Behrend	0	0	0	37,000	37,000	\$37,000
Total	275,000	(148,566)	126,434	250,000	376,434	\$775,000

* Approximate

Request for continuation of funding

To date, the Collaborative has spent its resources with care, currently standing at \$148,566 in total costs from ECGRA funds. Matching funds from partners and external clients now total just under \$495,000. In order to continue work and to take action on the Innovation Beehive projects described above, the partnership requests the second installment of \$250,000 in funds from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. The team is excited by recent progress of the Collaborative and its programs, and would be glad to present our current metrics and our new goals to the ECGRA board at their convenience.

Success Metrics Update

Metric	Expected	Actual
Products Developed	20/year	19
Technology Disclosures Filed	1/year	2
Businesses Started	10/year	4
Jobs Created	40/year	Numbers not available yet
Dollars Leveraged	1:1	\$643,566 (>3:1)
Imported \$ vs. Exported \$	>1:1	Numbers not available yet
Quickstarter Success Rate	>70%	90%
Faculty Collaborations	5/year	5
Industry-University Collaboration	10/year	13*
Average Partners per Project	>2	2.3

*27 including entrepreneurs without established businesses.

During the first phase of this collaboration, we have gained a more accurate understanding of where the demand lies, not only within the partnering universities, but also within the region itself. While we continue to build a more collaborative culture in Erie, we must adapt to increase our immediate impact. This is the primary reason for our pivot toward the Innovation Beehive model for a substantial portion of our activity. It is also essential to recognize the value of the shift that we are seeing in the culture within our universities and within our communities toward mutually beneficial collaborations, projects, and initiatives; working in concert with the many other, independent endeavors that each organization pursues. We are witnessing a growing openness to coordination and cooperation of service providers, serving a likewise more community-driven entrepreneurial community in Erie. We are excited to continue to be a central part of it.

Lake City Borough/Girard Township Sanitary Sewer Connection Collaboration

Applicant - Borough of Lake City

Amount of Request - \$11,632.50

Project Total - \$23,265

Previous Grants - \$0

Category – Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Project Summary

County Gardens mobile home park is located in Girard Township. It has an on-site septic system for approximately 70 units, however, it is failing and the PA Department of Environmental Protection has encouraged a connection to the Lake City Borough sanitary sewer system which has its own wastewater treatment plant. Lake City and Girard Township share the WWTP. Under state law, Girard Township is responsible for addressing the sewage treatment needs in the township and has a legal burden to make public sewers available. There is capacity at the WWTP to accommodate the sewage flows from the mobile home park.

Lake City Borough has made application to clean and camera the entire system at the mobile home park. Lake City and Girard Township are partnering on the project and providing matching funds.

The purpose of the project is to determine the condition of the sanitary sewer infrastructure before an agreement is signed allowing a connection to the WWTP.

Notes

The project represents some collaboration, although it was precipitated by a failure of a private septic system. DEP, Girard Township, Lake City Borough, and the Lake City Sewer Authority have been working for a few years to resolve the problem. The project has already begun as the contractor was hired and will conclude work sometime in June. While it addresses a need within the community, the application is not very detailed and contains one-sentence responses. There is no timeline, detailed budget, or detailed description of the project. The revenue generated from the mobile home park in the form of sewer fees will allow Lake City to recoup the small investment made to inspect the sanitary system

Eligibility

Under ECGRA guidelines, infrastructure projects are ineligible.

Recommendation

Funding this project is not recommended due to eligibility questions, the fact that the project already started, and the application is essentially incomplete.

West County Recycling Group/Clean-Up Day

Applicant - Girard Township

Amount of Request - \$16,350

Project Total - \$34,800

Previous Grants - \$23,687.00

Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$20,000.00
Multi-Municipal Collaboration	9/1/2014	(\$10,234.99)
Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$6,187.00
Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/13/2016	\$7,500.00

Category – Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Project Summary

Girard Township is leading a group of six West County communities which provides a day for residents to dispose of difficult to recycle household items, tires, electronics and other items for little or no cost. The event has taken place for the last 12 years in Albion after the Albion Fair concludes. There is an intergovernmental cooperation agreement signed by the participating communities.

Notes

DEP pays approximately half of the disposal fees in the form of grants to the communities.

All six signed Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement

Eligibility

Project is eligible.

Recommendation

Funding this project is recommended.

Erie County Multi-Municipal Shade Tree Planting

Applicant - Erie Area Council of Governments (EACOG)

Amount of Request - \$100,000

Project Total - \$200,000

Previous Grants - \$277,300

Multi Municipal Collaboration Grant	
2/28/2013	\$151,800.00
2/12/2015	\$88,000.00
6/15/2016	\$37,500.00

Category – Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Project Summary

The EACOG will partner with PA Sea Grant to assist EACOG communities (Erie, Lawrence Park, and North East Borough) - with an existing Shade Tree Commission - to select, site, and plant trees to supplement their on-going efforts.

Notes

Preferred tree size, according to the state bureau of forestry, is 2" caliper. The cost is approximately \$440/tree installed as publicly bid which would mean planting approximately 270 new 10' trees. Adding trees is a recommendation of Destination Erie. The COG by nature is collaborative and will bid out the installation work to save participants time and money. The city of Erie arborist will assist communities without an arborist to choose sites and tree specie. Erie, Lawrence Park, and North East will devote \$35,000 in matching funds to plant trees and the other \$65,000 in match will go towards removal of dead trees. The direct funding for tree planting is \$120,000 with the remainder for coordination and removal.

Using a formula by the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission, planting 270 trees would mean a \$12,000 savings in utilities per year.

Eligibility

Project is eligible.

Recommendation

Funding this project is recommended although there should be more trees planted and a formula developed to make this a sustainable, long-term program in conjunction with DCNR, DEP and other partners.

Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress

Applicant – Jefferson Educational Society

Amount of Request - \$97,000

Project Total - \$197,000

Previous Requests – 343,187

Special Events	8/11/2011	\$5,000.00	
Special Events	3/22/2012	\$39,250.00	
Special Events	3/28/2013	\$49,500.00	
Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$4,092.00	
Special Events	4/1/2014	\$13,950.00	
Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$100,000.00	
Special Events	4/1/2015	\$17,551.00	
Special Events	4/1/2016	\$13,844.00	
Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/15/2016	\$100,000.00	\$343,187.00

Category – Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Project Summary

The civic action arm of The JES, The Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress (JACP) includes three initiatives: The Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (JCLA), which cultivates emerging leaders in Erie County; a series of two to three Jefferson Dinners to be held in separate areas of Erie County to foster fellowship among current elected officials; and the publication of two to three Jefferson Essays, as well as the production of a short documentary on economic development to accompany one of the essays, which all will reveal pertinent research and analysis of relevant issues facing Erie County.

Notes

The leadership academy produced a report on blight and held an informative session for the public. This year's topic for the academy is the heroin epidemic. A new feature is the production of a documentary on economic development.

Eligibility

Project is eligible.

Recommendation

Funding this project is recommended. It has proven to be valuable and meets the spirit and intent of the program.

Blight Removal: City of Corry and Concord Township

Applicant – Redevelopment Authority in the city of Corry

Amount of Request - \$25,000

Project Total - \$50,000

Previous Funding – 70,000

Pilot Programs & Special Projects	4/24/2014	\$20,000.00	
Pilot Programs & Special Projects	9/19/2014	\$50,000.00	\$70,000.00

Category – Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Project Summary

Corry Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) was implemented in 2005 with the mission of removing residential blight in the City of Corry. It operates as a committee of the Corry Industrial Benefits Association (CIBA), a 501(c)(3), and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Corry. Administrative support is provided by the Corry RDA with CIBA providing financial support to assist in funding blight removal. We will address the growing amount of residential blight by removing it. Our whole purpose is to revitalize and incentivize the prospect of reinvestment in our community. Our efforts will have immediate and long-term benefits for our community. In 2014, Concord Township approached CNI about a partnership to address blight in their community. To leverage resources and streamline administrative efficiencies, CNI efforts will be expanded outside the City of Corry to now include Concord Township in an effort to train by example the township leaders. Our goal is to continue acquiring and demolishing or rehabilitating blighted properties that plague these rural communities to foster right sizing of the housing stock, curb criminal activity and foster new investment.

Notes

The project goal is to demolish 5-7 homes over a 3-year period. The MMC term is 12 months. There is mention of rehabilitation of homes, but no details.

The county did not elect to create a county-wide land bank which could take possession of problem properties and turn them over to responsible parties.

Eligibility

Project is eligible.

Recommendation

Funding this project is recommended but at a 12-month timetable.

Impact Investment Summary Plan & Timeline

June 10, 2010 The Strategic Plan

ECGRA's strategic plan is designed to make the Authority a top financing agency in the economic development space. It was first adopted by the Board in June 10, 2010. Since then, there have been minor revisions to update funding details and clarify policy directions, but its vision remains the same. The Plan calls for closing the gaps that exist in the financing structure to help startup businesses, small businesses, manufacturers, and technology-based companies to grow their products and services thereby creating jobs in Erie County. In addition, it calls for technical assistance alongside funding in order to support revolving loan funds, equity funds, cash deposits, and micro-financing programs.

The PA Race Horse Development & Gaming Act creates restricted, uncommitted funds for the purpose of investing in economic development projects that have the potential to create jobs and revitalize our community. Incorporation documents require the Authority to follow the Economic Development Financing Law of Pennsylvania when administering the restricted, uncommitted funds. The strategic plan acts as a compass in creating funding programs that will bridge the financing gaps in the economic development system.

December 13, 2010 The Settlement

Next, a legal document that has had significant consequences for the Authority was negotiated and signed into law. In December of 2010, ECGRA entered into a structured legal settlement with six municipalities that are contiguous to the Casino including: Erie County, Greene Township, McKean Township, Millcreek Township, Summit Township, and Waterford Township. Clauses in the settlement require ECGRA, on a quarterly basis, to expend restricted, committed funds equal to 25% of revenues with contiguous municipalities. On a quarterly basis, ECGRA mails checks to the six municipalities within days of gaming revenue arriving in the Authority's coffers. These interactions are governed by clauses 2, 4, 5, 6, & 12 of the settlement.

The settlement also calls for the distribution of funds to a category in the strategic plan known as "Lead Assets" or as it's referred to in the original document "dedicated regional assets." ECGRA is required to expend 30% of funding on Lead Assets through 2014. These interactions are governed by clauses 7 & 8 of the settlement.

ECGRA has diligently complied with the clauses of the settlement agreement. On a quarterly basis, settlement statements are issued to the Board to show compliance.

April 11, 2011 The Regional Asset Committee (RAC)

The first RAC meeting was held on April 11, 2011 to begin the process of administering funds that would come to be known as regional asset funding. Its initial purpose was to create a granting writing and funding process for the lead assets, community assets, special events, and human services. Later, mission main street funding was added to this committee along with the summer jobs pilot program.

January 12, 2012 The Endowment

After extensive research into endowment options, the Board chose to establish the Erie County Lead Asset Endowment Fund at the Erie Community Foundation. In January 2012, the Board approved a jumpstart of over \$5,000,000 in the endowment and has continued to fund it on an annual basis thereafter.

Impact Summaries

To fulfill the early commitments of the PA Race Horse D&G Act and the settlement agreement, ECGRA spent significant amounts of funding on municipal governments and the lead assets. The following is a summary of those expenditures:

	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Municipal*	\$4,165,962	\$5,121,082	\$1,467,915	\$1,377,372	\$1,360,905	\$1,231,048
Lead Assets & Endowment		\$1,293,622	\$6,602,038	\$1,212,207	\$2,343,864	\$1,659,714
Economic Development Financing		\$1,400,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,087,500	\$0	\$400,000**

*Figures do not include municipal collaboration funding; settlement only.

** Figures represent the first two Ignite Erie Programs

Municipal Totals: \$14,724,284

Lead Asset Totals: \$13,111,445

Eco Dev Totals: \$ 4,237,500

The next large scale spend should be in the form of MRIs in economic development financing.

Economic Development Financing as a Strategy

Since its inception, ECGRA has struggled to identify economic development financing partners in Erie County. Many lack the capacity for large scale financing. Some are limited in the audience they reach and the sectors they focus on. In an effort to finance job creation in the inner-city and rural county, to finance retail, manufacturing, and technology-based companies, it was necessary to bring financing partners into Erie County. This strategy serves the dual purpose of financing niche markets and bringing dollars into the community for business growth. We hope that these agencies will also introduce new financing knowledge to the region motivating traditional agencies to learn and participate in helping companies.

In addition to meeting with agencies, mostly from Western PA, here are the steps ECGRA has taken:

- October 24, 2013: Board hears a presentation on ECGRA's role in entrepreneurship
- August 28, 2014: Board hears a presentation on Impact Investing
- September 25, 2014: Board adopts Impact Investing Policy

- December 11, 2014: Board adopts Ignite Erie Guidelines creating 3 funding streams:
 - Inner-city Small Business Development
 - Industry+University Business Acceleration
 - Mission-Related Investments (MRIs) for Small Business Financing
- January 8, 2015: MRIs Prequalification packets were submitted. ECGRA received 5 applications. Progress Fund packet came from request of the board after the June 2015 presentation.

Next Steps

Prequalification Packets → Staff Review → Committee Review → Committee Recommendation

Staff Analysis

	<i>Category</i>	<i>Ready to Fund</i>	<i>Contingent Leverage</i>	<i>Continuation Funding</i>	<i>Milestone Funding</i>	<i>Compliance Analysis</i>	<i>Under Consideration</i>
<i>Bridgeway Capital</i>	CDFI – Aeris Rated	YES	4-1			Yes	\$1mm
<i>PennVenture Partners</i>	SBIC, SBA approved	YES	1-1			n/a	\$2mm
<i>Ben Franklin Technology Partners</i>	State Program	YES		1-1		Yes	500k
<i>The Progress Fund</i>	CDFI – Aeris Rated	YES	1-1			n/a	\$1mm
<i>Enterprise Development Fund</i>	CDFI	YES		1-1		Yes	\$500
<i>Community Capital Development Corporation</i>	Affiliating with a CDFI	No			1-1	n/a	\$500



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Asset Allocation

Asset Class	Description
Cash	Linked Deposits with local banks, credit unions & CDFIs to accomplish small business financing goals
Fixed Income	Invest in SBA-backed loans, affordable housing projects &/or social impact bonds targeted to Erie County.
Alternative Investments	Growth, venture & working capital for industry and business

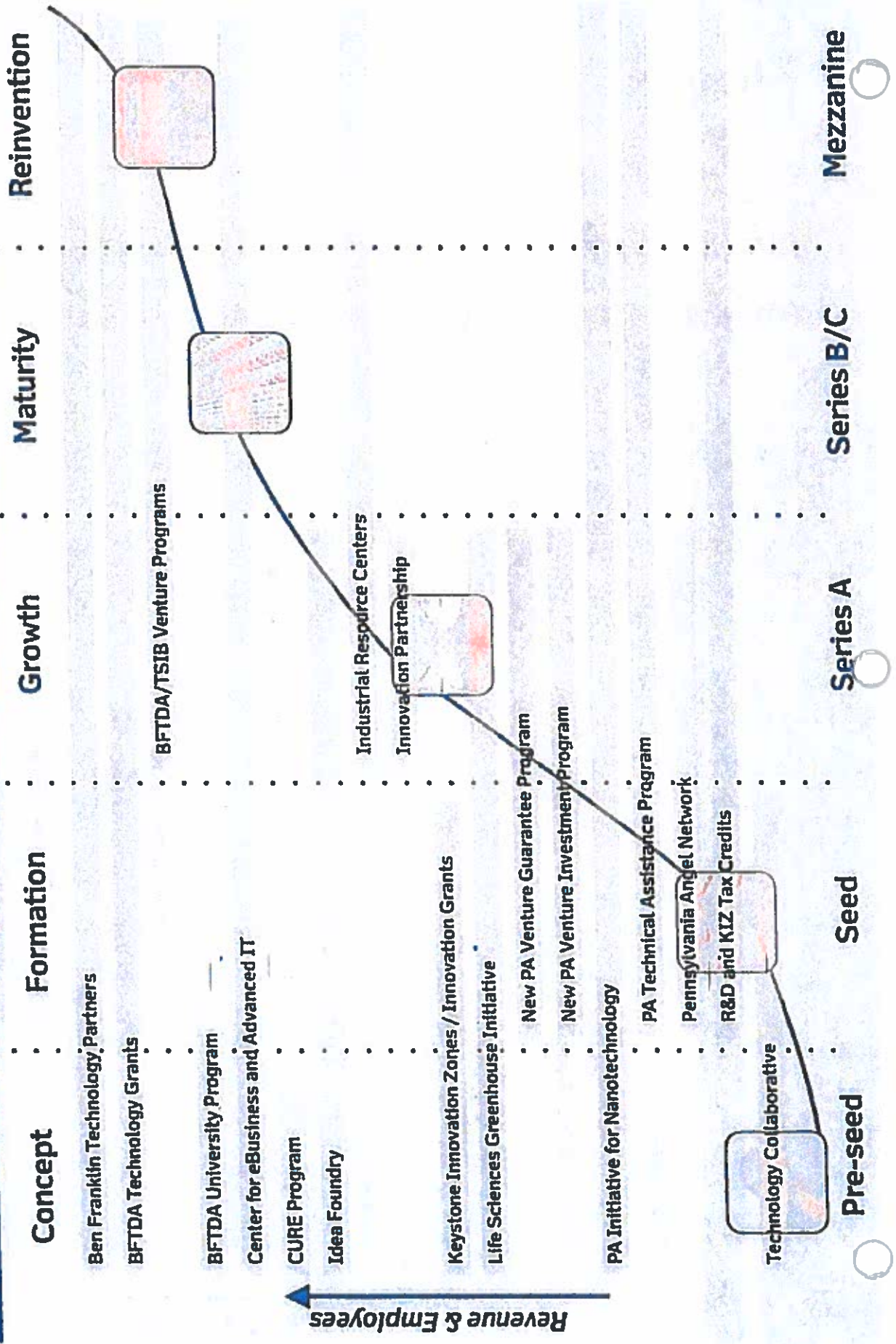


Technology Investment

Technology-based Economic Development Tools Along the Continuum

> ready > set

> succeed



RESOLUTION NUMBER 7, 2017

**Resolution to enter into agreements with
four (4) entities that comprise the recipients of the
2017-2018 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants**

Whereas, ECGRA was formed to oversee and administer the investment and distribution of gaming funds in Erie County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of local government in developing a strong economy and community; and

Whereas, ECGRA seeks to use gaming funds as a catalyst for municipalities to coordinate and cooperate with one another in the provisioning of services to achieve efficiencies, economies of scale, and innovation of modern governmental processes;

Whereas, ECGRA believes that active collaboration through councils of governments, authorities, intergovernmental associations and nonprofits coordinating such activities are key strategies in community building; and

Whereas, the four (4) recipients are identified as the following primary applicants: the Erie Area Council of Governments, Girard Township, the Jefferson Educational Society, and Redevelopment Authority in the City of Corry;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$238,350 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with four (4) recipients of the Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the

region and continue to improve upon local government on behalf of the people of Erie County.

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 8th day of June, 2017 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

June 8, 2017

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA

2017 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant Applicants

Organization Name	Amount Requested	Last Name	First Name	Email	Project Name
Borough of Lake City		Kibler	Stacy	skibler@lakecityboro.org	Lake City Borough/Girard Township Sanitary Sewer Connection Collaboration
City of Corry Redevelopment Authority		Vincent	Katrina	katrina@corryidc.org	City of Corry/Concord Township Blight Removal
Erie Area Council of Governments		Horan-Kunco	Jessica	jhkunco@erieareacog.org	Erie County Multi-Municipal Shade Tree Planting Program
Girard Township		Platz	Lindy	blplatz@verizon.net	West County Recycling Group Recycling/Clean-Up Day
Jefferson Educational Society		Perederiy	Olga	perederiy@jeserie.org	Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress



RESOLUTION NUMBER 8, 2017

Resolution to authorize the executive director and solicitor to enter into negotiations and execute an agreement with 1855 Capital Partners for a \$500,000 mission-related investment (MRI) for the purpose of promoting small business growth and expansion in Erie County in accordance with the ECGRA impact investment policy

Whereas, ECGRA has established the Ignite Erie Initiative as a funding stream to make both grants and mission-related investments within Erie County that support job creation through small business; and,

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of supporting entrepreneurship in strengthening the economy of Erie County; and,

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law states that "a minimum level of unemployment and maximum level of business opportunity, and the elimination or prevention of blight can best be provided by the promotion, attraction, stimulation, rehabilitation and revitalization of industry, commerce and other activities in the Commonwealth; and,

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law expressly states that entities like ECGRA have as a purpose to "promote industrial, commercial and other economic development"; and,

Whereas, ECGRA's Strategic Plan calls for an economic development approach that targets small business financing that creates jobs, bridges gaps in the current ecosystem, supports demographic groups underrepresented in business ownership, leverages other sources of funding, both public and private, and develops entrepreneurial services in the form of technical assistance; and,

Whereas, ECGRA's economic development approach recognizes the importance of entities such as Community Development Financing Institutions that are created to provide "credit and financial services to underserved markets and populations"; and,

Whereas, 1855 Capital Partners has been prequalified by ECGRA as an entity capable of executing on a mission-related investment; and

Whereas, in accordance with ECGRA's impact investment policy and by the recommendation of the strategic planning committee, ECGRA seeks to enter into a mission-related investment with 1855 Capital Partners by authorizing the executive director and solicitor to negotiate and execute on terms and conditions in order to effectuate mission-related investment;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the ECGRA Bylaws, awards a mission-related investment to 1855 Capital Partners in the amount of \$500,000 subject to contract negotiations with the executive director and legal counsel.

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on 8th day of June, 2017 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

June 8, 2017

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 9, 2017

Resolution to Approve Human Services grants for the Second Quarter of 2017

Whereas, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority offers quarterly grants for human services in conjunction with the Helping Today program facilitated by the Erie Community Foundation; and

Whereas, the purpose of the human services funding is a function of a strong economic development system that provides a safety net for its most disadvantaged citizens; and

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law provides that one of the purposes of the law is to "Otherwise promote the health, welfare and safety of the residents of this Commonwealth by promoting economic activity and efficiency, by alleviating or eliminating unemployment, blight and other unhealthy conditions and by otherwise providing public benefit and prosperity and to do or perform any of the above regardless of whether the project, the project applicant, or the project user is a public or private or done with a profit or not -for-profit purpose; "and

Whereas, Erie Community Foundation's Helping Today grant program was designed to improve the quality of life in the region by ensuring a vital nonprofit sector and the programs funded through the Helping Today grant have the effect of alleviating unhealthy conditions within Erie County; and

Whereas, the staff of the ECGRA have reviewed the merits and applicability of the proposed projects and programs in relation to the Economic Development Financing Law, and in conjunction with the Helping Today grants panel proposes funding to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit A

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority bylaws, resolves to award grant funding to the above-named projects subject to terms of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's grant agreement.

On the Motion of _____ ,

seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 8th day of June, 2017 by a vote of _____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
June 8, 2017

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA

EXHIBIT "A"

**Helping Today Project Summaries
Second Quarter 2017**

Project Name: Summer Math and Reading Enrichment Program
Project Sponsor: Blessed Hope 7th Day Christian Church
Description: Purchase of tablets and computers to add formalized math and literacy component to summer day camp. Students are mostly from Jefferson School in Erie.
ECGRA Proposed contribution: \$1,500

Project Name: Regional Gay Straight Alliance for Erie Area Youth
Project Sponsor: Greater Erie Alliance for Equality
Description: Support youth through a network of mentors, counselling services
ECGRA Proposed contribution: \$7,000

Project Name: Building Repairs
Project Sponsor: Safe Journeys
Description: Emergency repair of women's shelter wall.
ECGRA Proposed contribution: \$2,500

Project Name: Edison School Food Pantry Pilot Project
Project Sponsor: Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania
Description: Equipment, supplies, and food to serve 150 families at Edison School thorough out the 2017-2018 school year.
ECGRA Proposed contribution: \$7,225

Project Name: Early Learning Center Bus Purchase
Project Sponsor: Saint Martin Center
Description: Purchase of 30-seat bus to transport children to/from day care at the Center
ECGRA proposed contribution: \$7,000

Project Name: Strength Through Literacy
Project Sponsor: Harborcreek Youth Services
Description: Multi-sensory structured language curriculum to assist low-literacy learners in partnership with the Achievement Center and Edison School
ECGRA proposed contribution: \$7,000

Total investment: \$37,000

