

**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2011**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Paul Cannon Scott Senter Marelyn Shedd	Mike Schweikhard Dani Ramsay
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Richard Burdine	Kim Tarrant
<b>GUESTS PRESENT:</b>	Bill Ehrie Jaime Adame David Miller David Sougstad Dawn Wagner Pat Hippely	Abilene Industrial Foundation Abilene Reporter-News Texas Tech University Emergent Technologies/ALSA TCTP “

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Paul Cannon called the meeting to order in the conference room of the Abilene Life Sciences Accelerator, 1325 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 11, 2011 BOARD MEETING.** Scott Senter moved to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2011 board meeting. Mike Schweikhard seconded and the motion carried.
- 3. DECEMBER 2010 FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT.** There was no report available at the time of the meeting.
- 4. PRESENTATION BY DAVID MILLER WITH TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION ON THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY (NIRE) AND NATIONAL WIND RESOURCE CENTER (NWRC).** Mr. Miller highlighted Texas Tech University's (TTU) many accomplishments. TTU has extensive assets in wind energy. The DCOA was the first economic development corporation to invest in this project a little over a year ago. Since that time, the university has formed the National Institute for Renewable Energy (NIRE) and the National Wind Resource Center (NWRC). Texas Tech has received \$8.4 million from the Governor's office (Emerging Technology Fund). They have launched their first prototype development project with Alstom, a French multinational corporation, and Texas Tech is currently certifying Alstom's first wind turbine in North America.

The key goal in forming NIRE outside the university system is that it can own assets that TTU cannot. NIRE can launch its own renewable energy research farms and commercial power-producing operations which will be initially in wind but eventually in solar and bio energy.

- 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION.** I hereby announce we are going into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, .072, and .087 to consult with our legal counsel, discuss real property transactions, and discuss economic development negotiations involving a business prospect, as set forth on the agenda. Any vote or action will be taken in open session.

President Paul Cannon announced the date is February 8, 2011, and the time is 1:58 p.m. Mr. Cannon later announced the date is still February 8, 2011, and the time is 2:45 p.m. No vote or action was taken in Executive Session. A five-minute recess was taken, after which the meeting resumed. At the recess, DCOA Board Member Dani Ramsay left the meeting.

- 6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A 2011 SPONSORSHIP OF THE SPRINGBOARD IDEAS CHALLENGE.** This is the fourth year of Abilene Christian University's Springboard Ideas Challenge. It is a mini-business plan competition with the mission of stimulating innovation and economic development in our community. It is open to students, faculty in institutions of higher learning and all other entrepreneurs in the Abilene and greater West Central Texas region. In its first three years, the program has awarded \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000 respectively, in prize money to students, faculty and community members. The DCOA has sponsored this program all three years at the Gold Level of \$5,000.

Mike Schweikhard made a motion to approve by oral resolution the Gold Level sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000 for 2011 as recommended. Scott Senter seconded and the motion passed.

- 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ASSISTANCE FOR THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT.** The success of Springboard generated a lot of discussion last year to train entrepreneurs and encourage new business development. In December 2010 the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) issued an RFP for entrepreneurship training projects. Our Workforce Board and the TTUSBDC are the grant applicants and have established the West Texas Innovation Network (WTIN) as the region's response to the RFP.

The many partners comprising the WTIN Consortium include local workforce boards, entrepreneurship training, foundations, economic development corporations, business services, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations.

Persons eligible for this program include people negatively impacted by the economic downturn, recently separated veterans, disabled people, ex-offenders, rural citizens and small business owners needing help to sustain or expand their business. The funding comes from a TWC grant of up to \$200,000 for the first year; \$55,000 from local workforce boards as a challenge to the region to raise \$70,000; and \$30,000 each from two local foundations, leaving a funding gap of \$10,000 at this time.


The WTIN will provide pre-assessment; development of customized training plans; entrepreneurship training; one-on-one counseling; post-assessment; and mentoring.

Staff recommends DCOA cash participation of \$5,000/year over three years (\$15,000) and DCOA in-kind contribution of office space in the Grant Building (302 Pine Street) of \$12,000/year for three years (\$36,000), subject to approval of the Entrepreneurship Training Grant application by the TWC.

Scott Senter moved to approve Resolution No. DCOA-2011.10 as presented. Marelyn Shedd seconded and the motion passed. The DCOA also authorized the CEO the flexibility to commit

up to \$10,000 (of the \$15,000) for the first year to assure the \$70,000 grant match to the TWC's \$55,000. Other EDCs are expected to firm up their commitments later this month.

8. **ADJOURNMENT.** The next three board meetings are February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> (changed from March 22<sup>nd</sup> due to scheduling conflicts) at the ALSA, 1325 Pine St.



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Paul Cannon, President