

Growth Fund Committee Minutes
City Hall Room A102
255 North 4th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
October 21, 2019

1. **Roll Call:** Members Present - Jonathan Holth, Bret Weber and Chris Wolf. Others Present – Andy Conlon, Meredith Richards, Ryan Brooks, Michael Brown, Ken Vein, Maureen Storstad, Candi Stjern, Jessica Bergerson, Brandon Baumbach, Linsey Rood, Haley Rosaasen, Dawn Mandt, Renee Shelton, Sean Rauschendorfer, Josh Kehrwald, Tom Nickell.
2. **Minutes - Meetings of September 16, 2019:** Motion by Holth, second by Wolf to approve as presented. Voting “aye”: all.
3. **EDARLF Loan Request - Mobile Recon Systems, LLC:** Mr. Baumbach introduced Tom Nickell, CEO of Mobile Recon Systems. The company, currently based in Kentucky, designs and manufactures Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) with industry leading integration of lift capacity, functional flexibility, flight time, and cost. Mr. Nickell stated that Mobile Recon Systems is a relatively young company, started in 2014, and they are looking to grow the company. They considered several locations but ultimately chose Grand Forks due to the UAS ecosystem that has been built in the area. He explained some of the applications of their existing and planned products and summarized the company’s plans for establishing in Grand Forks, including goals in the first and second 100 days. Mr. Baumbach reviewed financing as shown in the staff report, explaining the funding partners’ roles as well as the overall purpose of the EDARLF program, one of which is to assist projects that cannot be fully financed in traditional markets. He noted that the \$400,000 request from the EDARLF would be disbursed in two tranches, mirroring the staging of the NDDF. Motion by Holth, second by Wolf to approve the recommendation as presented. Voting “aye”: all.
4. **Informational Items:**
 - a. **Grand Forks Herald Building Update:** Linsey Rood with the City’s Human Resource Department gave a presentation on the master plan concept for the building. It included floor plans and renderings, and focused on the partners and programming options that are being explored. She summarized the expected process and timeline moving forward.
 - b. **Rendezvous Region Tourism Council Presentation:** Dawn Mandt, Executive Director of the Red River Regional Council, gave a presentation regarding the Council’s history and efforts to drive tourism in the northeastern corner of the state, noting that there are 1.2 million people within a 2-hour drive. She added that the JDAs from Walsh, Pembina and Nelson Counties contribute \$7500-\$10,000 year in support. Mr. Weber praised Ms. Mandt and the organization for their important work and stated that the Growth Fund recognizes a strong region is good for Grand Forks and has supported other regional organizations, such as the Frost Fire Recreation Area. Mr. Weber wondered what a similar contribution to this organization might look like. Ms. Richards said staff would explore the concept and bring it forward at a future meeting.

5. **Adjournment:** Ms. Richards stated the Growth Fund Committee is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2019, but that staff will explore combining the November and December meetings. Motion to adjourn by Holth, second by Wolf. Voting “aye”: all. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Andy Conlon
Community Development

Bret Weber
Chair