

Best Practice

Tisdale and District Development Board

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THE PRACTICE

Economic development in and around Tisdale consisted of four entities; Tisdale Economic Development, Kelsey Development Corporation, Kelsey Development Corporation, and North East Regional Economic Development Authority. Each of these committees had the common goal to sustain and enhance development while creating wealth and prosperity within their respective boundaries. The four entities were amalgamated into the Tisdale and District Development Board, resulting in budget savings, increased resource capacity, and one board working together to achieve common goals.

THE PROCESS

Draft discussion paper – The director of economic development prepared a package of information explaining how the current development committees interlinked, who the funding came from and how it was transferred and administered. Using flow charts, the package gave an excellent visual representation of the tangled web that was created over the years. This information led to the drafting of a proposed structure that would eliminate redundancy and streamline efficiency.

Present concept to joint committee – The joint committee (consisting of members from the four existing economic development entities), reviewed the information, and once they had a “visual” of the structure, it was an easy matter for them to agree, changes were required. Changing to a new structure required consultation with all the parties involved in the current process.

Joint committee meetings – As the joint committee was represented by all four economic development entities, it was their decision to proceed with any changes. The realization that something should be changed was obvious; the way to go about it was a lot more complicated. Questions needed to be answered, “Who would sit on the new board?”, “Where would the funding come from?”, “What would happen with the existing committees and sub-committees”, “What will the agreement contain and who will it include?”

Drafting the Agreement – The joint committee gathered feedback from each entity, and then further consulted with the administrators of the town and RM, and this information was brought back to the joint committee in order to draft an agreement. It was agreed that the new structure would work best if it was a partnership with the Town of Tisdale and the RM of Tisdale. This would create the needed vision and thinking towards a single community. The board structure was discussed and agreed that it should include the Mayor of Tisdale, two Tisdale Councillors, the reeve of the RM of Tisdale, two RM councillors and three members from the community. This structure was selected with the thinking that elected officials would expedite decisions as well as streamline the information flow between the development committee and the respective councils while the public members would bring the community’s voice to the table. Funding discussion concluded with the Town of

Tisdale inputting 75% of the proposed budget and the RM inputting 25% of the budget. Also agreed was that even though the cash inputs were not equal, the votes on the board would be equal, one vote per board member.

Review draft agreement – The joint committee presented the draft agreement to Tisdale Economic Development and Kelsey Development committees for further input.

Completed Agreement - The new agreement was presented to the town council and RM council for review and approval.

THE RESULTS

The results so far have been extremely encouraging. This new structure has expedited many discussions regarding a regular basis giving them an opportunity to discuss and fine tune a proposal prior to a presentation to the councils. The new structure has eliminated redundancy which means meetings are now focused and create faster results. Budgeting and banking is more efficient. Meeting costs have been cut by 50%. Meeting attendance has increased. The overall atmosphere during discussions is an “all for one and one for all” instead of the “what’s in it for me?”

LESSONS LEARNED

The Town and RM of Tisdale learned that by working together and amalgamating various boards working towards common goals cost efficiencies, increased capacity and a strong relationship can result. Working together to achieve common goals has become common theme for the Tisdale and District Development Board which will sustain Tisdale and District into the future.