



Emmet County News Release

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FILL BOARD OF BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Emmet County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (ECBRA) is looking to fill at least two openings on its board as soon as possible to avoid delays of its work due to lack of a quorum.

ECBRA meets on the second Thursday each month at 11 a.m. in the office of Planning and Zoning. Members include Tammy Doernenburg, Planning and Zoning Director, two county commissioners and six members of the community. A position on the ECBRA board does not include a stipend as all members serve on a voluntary basis. The efforts, however, of the ECBRA board have a measurable impact on the community.

Towns and cities across the country have been cleaning up properties in their localities since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started the Brownfield Program in 1995. A brownfield is defined by the EPA as a property "which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." A variety of grants are made available to assist in these clean-up initiatives.

Emmet County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority's main purpose is to promote the revitalization of environmentally distressed areas of the county. The ECBRA aims to encourage redevelopment of underutilized sites, reduce threats to human health and the environment, create jobs and spur spin-off development. The board works to focus investment in downtowns and to preserve open space.

In recent years, ECBRA worked to facilitate a Brownfield plan for the development of the Great Lakes Center for the Arts in Bay Harbor. Currently, ECBRA accepted a DEQ grant and crafted a Brownfield plan for the redevelopment of the former Ski's Party Store and Gas Station, 1302 US 31 North, across from the Pellston Regional Airport. The group received the requested grant funds and have completed an environmental assessment, lead and asbestos survey and are ready for demolition of the property this spring.

ECBRA will continue to oversee that the Pellston property's due care plan is executed and will administer the grant funds for the redevelopment of the lot. It is expected that an airplane repair business will be constructed following demolition and clean-up. The repair business will serve as an annex to an existing business at Pellston Airport.

Anyone interested in filling this volunteer position on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority may download the application online at https://www.emmetcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/BOC_2017-Committee-Application2.pdf. A real estate background would be helpful, but is not necessary to serve on the board. For further information or questions, please contact Doernenburg at (231) 439-8998 or by email at tdoernenburg@emmetcounty.org.

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