



July 23, 2025 Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

7:40am - 9:00am

Economic Development Collaborative

141 Stony Circle Suite #110

Santa Rosa, CA, 95401

For special accommodations please contact: juanita.fong@sonoma-county.org

EDC Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Officer Elections

Chair: Kathryn Hecht

Vice Chair: Wayne Leach

Secretary: Ethan Brown

III. CONSENT ITEMS

A. May 2025 Minutes - 4

B. June 2025 Minutes - 6

IV. POLICY/PROGRAM UPDATES

A. Board Feedback/Questions on Information Items

i. Executive Director Updates /Business Assistance

i. 2025 EDC Annual Report - 7

ii. Business Diversity - 23

ii. Creative Sonoma - 28

iii. Special Projects and Research - 30

V. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker: Andrew Leman, Risk Management Analyst III, County of Sonoma

B. Community Wealth Model Discussion

Nick S & Ethan

C. Board Reports on district updates and challenges (15 mins)

D. Action Items for next meeting (5 mins)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA BUT WITHIN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOARD

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Each person is usually granted time to speak at the discretion of the Chair. Any additional public comments will be heard at the conclusion of the meeting. While members of the public are welcome to address the Board, under the brown Act, Board members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda.

VIII. ADJORN - NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING -
Wednesday, August 23, 2025

Economic Development Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 24, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL

Kathryn Hecht, Chair called to order the Economic Development Board (EDB) at 8:12 am on July 24, 2024

The following EDB Board members were present: Kathryn Hecht, Wayne Leach, Nick Schwanz, Linda Kachiu, Ricardo Marzo, Skip Brand

The following EDB staff members were present: Aleena Decker, Debbie Yarrow, Brad Johnson, Lauren Cartwright, Bernadette Marko, Tara Thompson, Marcos Suarez, Jessica Martinez, Katherine DiPasqua, Christine Palmer, Lauren Cartwright, Jack Kampmann

II. CONSENT ITEMS

The meeting minutes from June 26, 2024, were approved.

Motion: Ricardo Marzo Second: Wayne Leach

Yay: 6 Ney: 0 Abstained: 0

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of Officers

- Kathryn Hecht – Chair
- Wayne Leach – Vice Chair

Motion: Nick Schwanz Second: Ricardo Marzo




- Yay: 6 Ney: 0 Abstained: 0

IV. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker: Lauren Cartwright and Ethan Brown Economic Development Board

Lauren gave a brief history of the EDB Research Program, its various stages, accomplishments and goals throughout the years. Both Ethan and Lauren discussed the expansion options and incorporation of future program development incorporating the EDB 3.0 action plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2022. In the last several months staff have been researching various programs and ways to strategically involve the department in assisting the businesses and economic development within the County. They discussed the hardship of the fellowship program due lack of funding and limited resources via the State.

Board members discussed various options for the fellowship program as well as ideas for additional funding for the department while promoting local economic development.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	KATHRYN HECHT, CHAIR, - SKIP BRAND -BETZY CHAVEZ - WAYNE LEACH – LINDA KACHIU – REGINA MAHIRI		707.565.7170		WWW.SONOMAEDB.ORG	
	NICK SCHWANZ - JORDAN KIVELSTADT - RICHARD MARZO ETHAN BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR		141 STONY CIRCLE, STE 110 SANTA ROSA, CA 95401			

V. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Hecht, Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Economic Development Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 25, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL

ADJORN

Kathryn Phillip, Chair called to order the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC) at 7:40 am on June 25, 2025

The following EDB Board members were present: Kathryn Philips, Wayne Leach, Nick Schwanz, Jordan Kivelstadt, Meilin Tsao

The following EDB staff members were present: Ethan Brown, Juanita Fong, Aleena Decker, Tara Thompson, Christine Palmer, Debbie Yarrow, Brad Johnson

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. No officers for 2025/2026 year were elected due to lack of quorum

III. CONSENT ITEMS

A. The meeting minutes from May 2025 were not approved, due to lack of quorum.

IV. POLICY PROGRAM UPDATES

A. Creative Sonoma

Tara spoke about the current recruitment and progress to fill the program officer position in the Creative Sonoma division.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Philip adjourned the meeting at 9 am

Board of Directors

Kathryn Philip, Chair | Meilin Tsao | Wayne Leach | Linda Kachiu |
Mahiri | Richard Marzo | Jordan Kivelstadt | Nick Schwanz
Ethan Brown, Executive Director

sonomaedc.org

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