

NEON Minutes  
March 12, 2015, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Broadband committee has met and is selecting topics to apply for the grant. They will be meeting over the next 2 weeks in order to apply for the grant by the deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>. There are dollars available through a different grant for a feasibility study but that grant does not have a deadline. The grant for the feasibility study requires matching dollars. All communities are encouraged to start looking for resources to come up with the matching funds.

#### Legislative Updates .

- Gene Metz testified on behalf of Rural Energy in regards to the production tax and the effect on the levy.
- Tom Johnson testified at the Senate tax committee hearing on the Assessor Accreditation.
- Lewis & Clark has good visibility and is high on everyone's list.
- Broadband and transportation both came up a lot. Transportation difference is between the rural and urban needs. All agreed there is a need to come up with 10 year funding plan.
- Public Safety-discussed the number of people being held in jail for mental health issues, juvenile sentencing, voting rights of felons.
- Housing in rural Minnesota, 2 bills that differ from the League of MN Cities and Coalition of Greater Minnesota.
- Education-vocational/technical back in grades 8-12, MN West-customized training funding back, MN West Jackson Campus-bonding bill for power line project and welding lab & programs, potential bill for student housing at MN West-Wgtn Campus

Aaron Hagen just returned from Washington D.C representing the Water & Light Commission where Lewis & Clark was discussed.

Discussed the possibility of creating a housing and broadband feasibility study sub-committees. Bob Demuth volunteered to be on the broadband feasibility study sub-committee.

The meeting adjourned.

#### Next Meeting:

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 . 7:00 pm  
BioTechnology Advancement Center  
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187