

NEON Minutes
April 9, 2015, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joyce Jacobs, Emergency Management Director, announced the 7pm Spotter Training at the Worthington Campus at Minnesota West. When offered, you don't have to sign up and this training can be for personal use. The week of April 13 - 17 is severe weather awareness week and all are encouraged to participate in Tornado Drill Day on April 16th.

David McNab, Emergency Medical Services, and Donald Linssen, County Commissioner appointed to SW Emergency Medical Services, provided the group with information on the updated guidelines of First Responders and EMT Paramedics resulting in decreased recertification numbers. The rural areas are struggling and continue to work on collaboration. The EMSRB (Regulatory Board) dictates the areas of the county covered by each ambulance service and there is concern over fewer volunteers and fewer employers are flexible during work time for those Emergency Responders who have day time jobs. Thus, response times are impacted negatively. Please take note of any legislation involving the Southwest MN EMS Corporation or Minnesota Ambulance Association regarding these guidelines.

Members of the Worthington Area Blandin Community Leadership Program were present to share information on their training. They are committed to becoming engaged in the community to provide resources to Nobles County and Public Entities leadership to assist in framing, social capital and mobilization. This is a great group with diverse skills that have emerged through Blandin training. Those present were Dan Greve, Stacie Golombiecki, Beth Rickers Namanny, Brenda Baerenwald, Reed Fricke, Rick Vonholdt, Ashley Goettig and Josh Noble. A full listing of the members assigned to the groups of the 5 identified issues in Worthington is as follows. Utilize them!

Library

-New Facility: Thi Synavone and Soom Chandaswang.

Lake Improvement/Asset Utilization

-Sustainability & future use: Andy Johnson, Beth Rickers Namanny, Dave Hoffman and Rick Vonholdt.

School District/Public Facility needs

-Long term planning for facility needs across the whole community: Josh Noble, Dan Greve, Mark Vis and Jason Turner.

Cultural Awareness/Welcome Center

-Community culture integration: Vilai Khanya, Antonio Torres Colindres and Maylary Htoo.

Public Health

-Health literacy and resource access: Dawn Gordon, DeTasha Place, Stacie Golombiecki, Reed Fricke and Brenda Baerenwald.

Tom Johnson provided an update on the Nobles Home Initiative which has the potential to abate taxes according to the guidelines. The purpose of the program is to add value to the tax base and there has been some consideration to extending the program past 2017. This program is for new home construction, not remodeling.

Broadband continues to be a priority and the Broadband Subcommittee has debated hiring a grant writer at a cost between \$500 and \$600 for the feasibility grant. Applications will be accepted in June and then again in September or October, but Blandin is only doing 10 feasibility projects with up to \$75,000 available. This is a matching grant so our community would need a minimum of \$25,000 to match to hire a consultant for the study. The group discussed the need to engage the area's broadband providers although some small communities have voiced that the bigger broadband providers were not receptive to this.

Other Updates .

- Ditch Viewing - a bill is being worked on that would require any ditch that hasn't been reviewed since 1970 to be reviewed by 2020.
- Legislation on Lewis and Clark.
- Legislative Mandates on Emergency Services and Assessing.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

May 14th, 5:30 . 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187