

NEON Minutes
January 14, 2016, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and County Administrator, Tom Johnson, presided over the meeting.

NEON Day at the Capital – Discussion was held whether it was worth NEON going to the capital or if we would be meeting with the same representatives that will be present at this Saturday's Legislative Breakfast. Darlene Macklin will ask at the Legislative Breakfast to see if NEON should go to the capital.

Campaign/Financial Reporting – Any candidate that spends \$750 on their campaign, or any group that spends \$750 on the campaign, needs to report the expenditure to the county. The Nobles County website will have a page that lists candidates meeting this stipulation with a link to the state to report it to. The information on the statute is included in the filing packets.

Feasibility Study – The survey has been put together and includes 20 questions; it will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The survey is the last piece of our puzzle to move forward to applying for the next grant. The goal is to get fiber/internet to every premise in Nobles County. After the survey is completed, the next step is full engineering plan and design and to find a partner to put fiber in the ground.

The March 10th NEON meeting has been moved to March 17th.

Around the Table:

- Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless – Public Access Hot Spots – 8 total; all are up and running except Dundee, hope to be running next week. Signs will be put up publicizing them. They are hoping to get a 9th spot placed in Ellsworth, still looking for a favorable location.
- Gene Metz/Nobles County – Armory Editorial – ongoing discussions are taking place and a plan will be publicized in the near future. Tax forfeited properties – receiving bids to clean them up.
- Don Linsen/Nobles County – echoed Gene's report.
- Gary Hoffmann/Public Utilities – Utilities amended S-1 agreement to extend time we can borrow money. Well levels continue to go up and they will continue to report the information in the newspaper. Lewis & Clark – late January/early February Luverne is scheduled to get water. \$18.7-19 million is needed to get water to Worthington, if funding is received; Worthington is looking at late 2017. Utilities will continue to lobby the Legislature for it; Minnesota Governor and Legislatures have been very supportive and we appreciate that.
- Bob Demuth/Nobles County – Gene Metz elected as Nobles County Chair and Don Linsen Nobles County Vice-Chair for 2016. Henning Construction was awarded the bid for the demolition of the Adrian Pool Hall. Operating Rules for the County Board Meeting-approved a consent agenda. Discussions were held on County State Hwy 39 in Dundee, this is a \$1.4 million project.
- Brent Fiekema/Leota Township – Thank you to the County for getting two tax forfeited properties in Leota back on the tax base. Discussion was held that the County cannot put rules for cleaning up the property with the sale of the tax forfeited properties. The Holland well is bad and they are working on digging a line to repair it.
- Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed – they are in the process of doing some reorganizing at this time.
- Marv Zylstra/Nobles County – Reappointed Gary Ewert to the Heron Lake Watershed. AMC Conference – Indian Lake Progressive 4-H Club is applying for the Community Leadership Award; they conducted fundraisers and purchased/installed new playground equipment in the Brewster City Park.
- Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township – a lot of snow removal!
- Darlene Macklin/Worthington Chamber of Commerce – Legislative Breakfast is this Saturday, January 16th, at 8:00 a.m.; all 3 Legislatures will be present. They are going to open it up right away for people to ask their questions/lead discussion. Winterfest is January 22-23. County

Commissioners vs. City Council Chili Cook-off challenge – County Commissioners have accepted the challenge. There are currently 14 entries.

- Kurt Lintelman/Round Lake – 60/90 Committee is Blandin funded; they are installing video conference equipment at 5 sites; identifying potential vendors to install equipment in 10-14 days. Locations are in Round Lake, Brewster, Heron Lake, Slayton and one other community. They are also supporting Drew's Livability Campaign, participating and funding community meetings.
- Keith Stubbe/Round Lake – Looking for members for the Minnesota Public Broadband Alliance for \$5,000 each.
- Rod Sankey/City of Worthington – Northland Mall property – it is out of the City's hands right now, things take time, but hope to have an announcement in the near future.
- Jorge Lopez/SWMHP – bids are out for a 48 unit income based building on the extension of Grand Avenue. There is a meeting on 1/15/16 to make sure all specifications and guidelines will be met.
- JBS donated \$50,000 to a housing fund challenge – details are not known at this point on the use of the fund.
- Larry Janssen/City of Worthington – Be patient, announcements will be coming on the Northland Mall property. Reiterated Grand Avenue extension.
- Tom Johnson/Nobles County – Received notification that the 3 Blandin grant applications were accepted: 1) BAC high speed broadband-if we can get a company to get it to the building, we would take care of the inside installment; 2) Library to increase broadband capabilities; 3) Community Ed – kids and computers. Would still like feedback on the top reasons you come to NEON meetings. Darlene will talk to the Daily Globe about promoting NEON/Broadband success.
- There will be a Buffer Webinar on January 20, 9:30 a.m., in the Farmer's Room.
- Governor's Water Summit – Saturday, February 27th, InterContinental Hotel in St. Paul.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

February 11, 2016 5:30 – 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187