

NEON Minutes
March 17, 2016, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

The Next Big Things, Resource and Technology Trends, 1-25, were presented and discussed. In the exercise, groups were instructed to rate each trend based on the likelihood and impact on Nobles County. At the next meeting Trends 26-44 will be presented and discussed. At the conclusion, we will name the top 10 and see what the next big thing is that NEON should work on.

Around the Table:

- Bob Demuth/Nobles County – Buffer Laws – The question is who is the enforcer? It looks like the counties and soil/water conservations are probably going to be the enforcers; \$100,000 is the proposed amount to help cover expenses.
- Gary Hoffmann/Wgtn Public Utilities – a Solar Power presentation was showed to the Utility Board, a lot of good information was provided.
- Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township – held their annual meeting – sent postcards announcing hotspot. One issue they are having is how do you manage ditch brush?
- Darlene Macklin/Wgtn Chamber of Commerce – Wild Turkey Shootout is March 19, there will be 52 teams coming to town for the basketball tournament.
- Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed – Amendment to Governor’s Buffer Bill, possibly extending the deadline to 2025, waiting to see if it becomes official.
- Rod Sankey/City of Worthington – Crailsheim Bridge Sculpture was approved and will be placed at Chautauqua Park. MVTV has put a hotspot at Olson Park. Those that use the service will pay for their usage.
- Larry Janssen/City of Worthington – WIFI @ Olson Park will be an asset to the campground. Northland Mall – Marthaler owns it and we are waiting for information on what the plans are. The City will be having a worksession, one topic to be discussed is boat slips on Lake Okabena.
- Kurt Lintelman/Round Lake – Pending conversion from analog to digital signal. Utilizing a Blandin Grant where videoconferencing units are being placed in Round Lake, Westbrook, Slayton, and Heron Lake.
- Gene Metz/Nobles County – Attended AMC Legislative Conference last week with the commissioners, transportation, bonding, tax bill are the top topics. Water – we have three watersheds in Nobles County – would like them to work together so no duplication or extra money is spent.
- Linden Olson/District 518 – District 518 purchased 160 acres for a new high school, possibly include Trojan field, soccer fields, water retention pond; it is away from traffic; taxes minimally affected from land purchase. Work sessions with architects, publications, public information all needs to be done before the vote in November. Legislative session – Early Childhood – need to include facilities. Minority parents/students – we need a county wide database to show new members to the community the services available and if there are fees charged. Referendum, if it passes in November, the district will look for bids in 2017 and start construction, may be occupied in 2018 but a lot of things need to happen to make that work.
- Don Linssen/Nobles County – attended AMC with the commissioners. Public Safety – Mental Health is an issue; Anoka and St. Peter are always full; jails are not the place for mental health. Voting rights for felons – pretty heated discussion – want to restore their right to vote. Prison capacity in Minnesota is overflowing; minimum sentences will be an effect of that to free up space.
- Ethel Rogers, JoAnn Burkhard/Summit Lake Township – sewer meeting was held for Reading; consensus was to keep process going. 15 out of 20 of the broadband surveys were returned.
- Tom Johnson/Nobles County – 91 broadband surveys have been completed. 5 townships that still need to be surveyed.
- Julie Foote/MVTV – Public access WIFI at Dundee is unfinished, however a location has been designated. Market Smarter – June 22 – one day seminar with breakout sessions; last year 150

attendees, would like to see 250; \$49 and it includes food. Pioneer Public TV spot has yet to be aired. To use the Public access WIFI spots, you need to create an account with MVTV, but it does not cost anything.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

April 14, 2016 5:30 – 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187