

NEON Minutes  
April 14, 2016, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

The Next Big Things, Demographics and Governance Trends, 26-44, 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 conclusion, the group reviewed the top 3 which were Technology Trend #16 Infrastructure Overhaul, Technology Trend #24 Tech-Enabled Health Care and Governance Trend #44 Fiscal Uncertainty.

Then the group reviewed the top trends from each of the four forces which include the following:

Resource Trends (1-6):

#1 Climate Change  
#3 Water Shortages & Access

Technology Trends (7-25):

#7 Digital Citizens  
#8 Sharing Economy  
#9 Education Reform  
#16 Infrastructure Overhaul  
#23 Nano Technology  
#24 Tech-Enabled Health Care

Demographics Trends (26-36):

#28 Civil Rights Spring  
#29 Mass Migration  
#34 Smart Citizens

Governance Trends (37-44):

#38 Trust in Government  
#41 Citizen Engagement  
#42 Direct Democracy  
#43 Corporate and Special Interest Influence  
#44 Fiscal Uncertainty

At the May 12<sup>th</sup> NEON meeting, Governance Trend #44 will be reviewed in greater detail and the group will continue reviewing the top trends at following meetings.

Around the Table:

- Julie Foote/MVTV-Julie posted on the NEON Facebook page that the Little Rock Township Hot Spot was up and running. MVTV tested the Bigelow, Little Rock Township and Emmanuel Lutheran Church sites. It was asked if repeaters could be put in but the challenge is finding another structure to put them on. The overall goal of the hotspots was so that no child/family would have to drive more than 5 miles to get internet access. The Facebook page is new and can be found by looking up Nobles Economic Opportunity Network and like it.+ You do need to have an active Facebook account in order to view it. If you have something you would like shared, contact Tom or Julie.
- Linden Olson/District 518 . District 518 purchased 160 acres for a new high school but reiterated that a successful vote in November is needed. A detriment to this project was the valuation on the property. Farmers don't feel like their valuations should increase but sales have gone up. Linden suggested that a description of valuations would be helpful in the future to be sent out to citizens. The tax impact of a moderate sized valuation on school taxes could be as much as 40-45% on residential and 140% on farm/ag land. Linden offered to bring in information to a future meeting information regarding taxable market values per student and the tax impacts of a new

school. An Architect has been selected for the project and there continues to be an increase in enrollments beginning in the lower grades, which we will continue to see in the future years.

- Donald Linssen/Nobles County . Commissioner Linssen updated the group on the BioScience Conference, County and Committee Meetings.
- Keith Stubbe/Round Lake-Keith expressed concern of how the Senate and the House were disagreeing over the internet funding in the budget.
- Jorge Lopez/SW MN Housing Partnership . Jorge was excited to announce the plans to bid subcontracts for the 48-plex in Worthington. The road should be ready in the middle of May.
- Bob Demuth/Nobles County . Commissioner Demuth updated the group on Planning and Zoning. Applications are required when housing over 1,000 animals or when within 1/8 mile of a neighbor. Animal husbandry is alive in Nobles County and it is great to see 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family farmers.
- Brad Meester/City of Bigelow: Brad was not sure if they will get the approval for the new house to be built. The owner bought a house next door and may plan to redo the house rather than demolish. Brad believes the Habitat for Humanity House will still be built in 2017, but he has had difficulty reaching Pam Dobson, who has taken a different job with Habitat.
- Gary Hoffmann/Wgtn Public Utilities . Randy Thompson's term is up and there will be a new Chairperson in May. Aaron Hagen will be attending the NEON meetings from now on. The Lewis & Clark project is progressing well. You will see flags on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue where the service will come in and it will cross the railroad tracks towards the Water Treatment plant. It has been decided that it will not be necessary to build another water tower, but rather that the water from the City of Worthington, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water and Lewis & Clark will all be mixed.
- Rod Sankey/City of Worthington . Rod advised that Al Franken had reps here for school programs he attended and pushed for Broadband. The Nobles County Historical Society did a walk-through in Worthington, Rod attended the BioScience Conference, discussed how people do not work out of local offices anymore but can provide their services from anywhere via the internet. Rod talked to the fishing club about shooting bow and arrow to get carp out of the lake. The City was reviewing their Home Initiative Guidelines and are considering extending the rate for 8 . 9 years for a 4-plex or larger construction. The Mall is being torn down but the JCPenney building will remain intact.
- Larry Janssen/City of Worthington . The traffic and safety committee are working on unnecessary noise coming into town as complaints from constituents have been received. The City does have an ordinance but it is not posted. Administrator Johnson provided an additional comment that on County Road 10, the 55 mph speed limit sign will be moved by the ball field from the residential area.
- Kurt Lintelman/Round Lake . We are inching forward on the Broadband Feasibility Study. Kurt has expressed his displeasure to Representative Bob Gunther, Representative Rod Hamilton and Senator Bill Weber as Broadband funding is becoming too little too late.
- Marvin Zylstra/Nobles County . Commissioner Zylstra reported that the Heron Lake Watershed has had many challenges in recent years. Two new Supervisors have started and things are starting to move more smoothly. The Fair Board is putting a lot of work into preparations for the County Fair and rafters are going up on Olsen Arena. The Indian Lake Progressives 4-H Club was the recipient of the AMC Leadership Award for raising funds and replacing playground equipment in Brewster. There were 3 students that accepted the award between the ages of 11 and 12 and did a wonderful presentation.
- Tom Johnson/Nobles County . Administrator Johnson reminded the group of the Public Road Seminars being offered late April and early May which may be very helpful for Townships.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

May 12, 2016 5:30 . 7:00 pm  
BioTechnology Advancement Center  
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187