

NEON Minutes
September 8, 2016, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Governance Trend #44 . Fiscal Uncertainty . discussion was held.

Meeting Schedule: It was decided to conduct a survey regarding the time and date of the NEON meetings to see if a change should be made or if we should rotate to different locations to increase attendance. The December NEON meeting date will need to be changed due to a Nobles County Board of Commissioner's meeting and Truth & Taxation meeting.

Legislative Opportunities: Discussion included school issues, unfunded mandates, tax bill, snowbird law. Please send your priorities to Tom Johnson in the next week so a complete list can be put together for the next NEON meeting.

Around the Table:

- Abraham Algadi/WREDC-AgCo subsidiary has bought the Farley & Sather building in Round Lake; the tax abatement has ended. Sales Tax. DEED-access to state funding for small communities in the county. Succession planning.
- John Landgaard/District 518-need to look at the legacy we leave. Entities will be asked to show letters of support for the referendum. Public meetings are on 9/12/16 and 10/11/16 at 7:00 p.m., in the Worthington High School Band Room. District has current enrollment of 3,150 students, which is 40+ students higher than what was predicted last spring; continue to grow faster than predicted. There will be tours of each school building scheduled during the day in the near future.
- Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless-Dundee hotspot is up and running and being used, Reading Community Theatre has been using the Reading hotspot for downloads.
- Darlene Macklin/Chamber of Commerce-King Turkey Day is this weekend. Political forums will be scheduled in the near future.
- Aaron Hagen/Worthington Public Utilities-wells are going down which is typical for this time of year. Still want a special session for Lewis & Clarke funding.
- Rod Sankey/City of Worthington-busy working on budgeting and trying to get it down; broadband.
- Linden Olson/District 518-MN Equity Partnership-9/30 and 10/1-next steps for our community.
- Keith Stubbe/Round Lake-no update.
- Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township-Legislative mandates on townships; residents aren't taking care of weed control in the ditches so townships are spending money on them.
- Matt Widboom/Nobles County-SW Regional Development Commission is made up of 9 counties, met today in Worthington-insurance was a big topic. Bigelow-demolition of tax forfeited house for Habitat for Humanity. Nobles County Historical Society-armory, trying to engage their membership.
- Larry Janssen/City of Worthington-Grand Avenue is almost complete with path and sidewalk; housing units will be put up in coming years.
- Gene Metz/Nobles County-Budget meetings-include an increase in insurance. Legislature-pertinent time to call with the possibility of a special session.
- Brad Meester/City of Bigelow-Kickoff event for demolition of tax forfeited house, plan on building two houses with Habitat for Humanity.
- Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed-watershed estimating their budgets. Buffer regulations-collaboration between watersheds and county.
- Don Linssen/Nobles County-Bigelow house kickoff event. Nobles County has two new tax forfeited houses that are out for bids for demolition. Budget-try to decrease, county is responsible for some individuals and it is very expensive-up to \$2,000/day; insurance price increased.
- Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake-Thank you to Abraham Algadi for all of his work with Ag Co, happy to get the property back on the tax roll and utilities being used. 175 people attended the

Community Center Open House. Trailer court has a new owner and is cleaning it up. Our Place café-working on getting it torn down.

- Kurt Lintelman/Round Lake-no update.

Other: On a motion by Brad Meester and seconded by Abraham Algadi, motion passed to sign a letter of support for Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company for a Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Grant to serve all areas of the County which are either unserved or underserved.

Next Meeting:

October 13, 2016 5:30 . 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.