

NEON Minutes
November 10, 2016, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and Nobles County Commissioner, Don Linssen, presided over the meeting.

Introductions were made along with the reasons you attend the NEON meetings.

Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) President/CEO Diana Anderson gave a presentation on what SWIF does and their upcoming "Grow Our Own Summit".

2017 Legislative Opportunities – draft proposals have been distributed; please determine what you feel are the top five issues so we can finalize them at the next meeting and forward them on to the Legislature.

Around the Table:

- Rod Sankey/City of Worthington – Worthington Manor Apartments (Grand Ave) will include 72 units; they are proposing an additional 36 units. Attended the Open House held regarding Highway 59, in 2025 they plan to rebuild Oxford Street completely; they are looking for input on this project. Airport Advisory Board did not raise pilot's rates. Pat Arndt plans to continue the spraying business next season. Ag land lease is up for bids in 2017. Airport is self-sufficient; it doesn't cost taxpayers any money.
- Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed District – Budget is completed and ready for 2017.
- Aaron Hagen/Worthington Public Utilities – finalizing budgets. Lewis & Clarke-new officers at State; hope to get it passed.
- Matt Widboom/Nobles County – Bonding process for \$10 million-includes 70 miles paving, no levy impact. CIP Bond-\$5-7 million, paid by wind money, \$2 million to replace the roof at the Prairie Justice Center.
- Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township – had good voter turnout in the election.
- Kurt Lintleman/Round Lake – election shows that we are calling for a change in philosophy.
- Bruce Heitkamp/City of Adrian – sanitary sewer and water in the new addition, electrical will be placed next year. Librarian is raising money for the Library matching funds. Ambulance Training demands are difficult to keep up with.
- Doug Knuth/Round Lake – Fire Training demands are difficult to keep up with. United Prairie Bank Building is now occupied with a wind company; hope to have 4-5 employees based out of the office. AgCo—expanding, putting in a transformer to the former Sather's property.
- Larry Janssen/City of Worthington – Grand Avenue is open. Movie Theatre is moving forward and will need 3 readings to proceed. Soccer Fields are done and green!
- John Landgaard/District 518 – Referendum didn't pass, there is work to do to decide the next steps. Registered six kids this week, enrollment keeps growing. Trojan Field hosted 38 events this year. If anyone has ideas/thoughts, please share them.
- Don Linssen/Nobles County – Budget Committee set the not to exceed at 5.9%; hope to get it down to 3%. State Facility – the housing of individuals is very expensive; \$165,000/annual for an individual.

Next Meeting:

January 12, 2017 5:30 – 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.