

NEON Minutes  
February 9, 2017, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Introductions were made.

Buffer Law Discussion took place. Consensus was to have enforcement stay local. Haven't received direction on enforcement and fines; need to give the state time to provide more information. Senator Weber and Representative Hamilton both recommended to keep local control and insinuated money will be coming to enforce the laws. Out of 1700 parcels in Nobles County, 46% are compliant and another 17% have been addressed.

The Southwest Minnesota County Commissioners Legislative Roundtable will take place on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Lewis & Clark-last two years were good; we need two more years to get the project finished. Money for nursing homes, land taxes and bare land are all issues.

Around the Table:

- Gene Metz/Nobles County--joint railroad projects are in the works, working with Legislature on wind and solar issues.
- Bob Demuth/Nobles County--attended WREDC Annual Meeting; County, City, Utilities are all collaborating.
- John Landgaard/District 518--6 listening meetings were held with good discussion and opportunities. Enrollment is at 3400+ for the next four years. Currently looking at next years' staffing needs.
- Darlene Macklin/Chamber of Commerce--March 4-Legislative Breakfast, March 8-Business day at the capital.
- Don Linssen/Nobles County--attending a lot of meetings, legislative issues, buffers.
- Amy Ernst/City of Worthington--Legislative meetings finalizing priorities of the city. Sidewalk/bike path is going to be built on McMillan Street.
- Aaron Hagen/Worthington Public Utilities--Lewis & Clark, keep pushing the Legislature to keep it included and moving.
- Rod Sankey/Citizen--surgery.
- Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless--Community Hot Spots are all up and working!
- Kurt Lintleman/Round Lake--Round Lake is getting a new cell tower. Technology switch over with cable tv, will have to see quality of service and signal.
- Shelly Onken/Bloom Township-meeting with the DNR regarding their land in Bloom Township and the plans for it.
- Austin DeWitte/SWCD--buffers and looking at the options for compliance.
- Kevin Schettler/Bloom Township--more windmills are going up next year. DNR land -- they should need to be in compliance with their land just like the ag land owners.
- Brad Meester/Bigelow--City of Bigelow isn't included in the Broadband grant for Lismore Telephone; working on some issues to get Bigelow covered.

Next Meeting:

March 9, 2017 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
BioTechnology Advancement Center  
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.