

NEON Minutes

July 13, 2017, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Dr. Terry Gaalswyk, President of MN West, shared the Minnesota West Community & Technical College Strategic Plan for 2017-2023, summarized the 2017 Commencement and the following highlights of the College:

- Minnesota West has become the #1 Community & Technical College in the State and #3 in the nation online.
- Provides programs that are home-based at specific campuses.
- In final stages of bringing a 108 bed housing unit to the Worthington campus. Representative Hamilton and the City's support have helped to achieve this model, market rate rental housing.
- New programs developed for those who don't meet entry requirements of SMSU and to "Grow our own Teacher."
- The College is financially stable; Legislature has assisted but the College is looking at philanthropic support.

Administrator Johnson raised the question for discussion if NEON should develop a core group for the Vision 2040 Leadership Program as the previous Vision 2030 team has not gotten any momentum. To summarize the Vision 2030, a timeline was created so that the City, County and School could spread out priorities, plans and projects.

The group discussed different programs and models offered in other areas that promote facilitating partnerships and identifying young business professionals and leaders.

Administrator Johnson advised the next meeting is scheduled for August 10th during County Fair Week. In prior years, the meeting has been cancelled for August and those present were in support of cancelling the August meeting.

Around the Table:

Donald Linssen/Nobles County – County's Investment Committee revived and evaluating some of the County's investments; City of Worthington's Police forum at St. Mary's church was a positive 1st step.

Linden Olsen/I.S.D. 518 – 40 new staff this year; City is getting Sewer out to the new property; working with local child care providers for alumni; working on building ALC and gymnastics housing; preliminary study on collaborative building; July 25th mobile food pack at the American Reformed Church and the upcoming backpack program.

Amy Ernst/City of Worthington – road construction improvement projects in Worthington; subcommittee formed for amenities in Worthington; need for childcare.

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington – road construction improvement projects in Worthington; Manor housing project.

Terry Gaalswyk/MN West – asking to visit and share the message of the college at your entity; discussed anticipated programs.

Bruce Heitkamp/City of Adrian – Ribs and Rims celebration this weekend in Adrian; the streets should be done by August for the new development by Henning Construction; City of Adrian is support of the Nobles Home Initiative; the Ambulance has signed on with new Medical Director; acquiring new property and trading some on Maine Avenue; working with the SWCD to reduce nitrates on CRP and wellhead protection area.

Gene Metz/Nobles County – Contractor is halfway done with laying the 70 miles of asphalt for the G.O. State Aid Road Bond project, completion expected by September 1; Adrian Library grand re-opening is Friday, July 14th; 1 mile left to pick up railroad ties for the Buffalo Ridge Regional Rail Authority project and an off load opportunity with E&E railroad is being looked at in Rushmore.

Robert Demuth Jr./Nobles County – as a WREDC Ex-Officio Board Member, tasked with looking at taxing bodies to approve it moving forward as it is due to sunset at the end of this year.

Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township – issues being discussed amongst the townships at the upcoming August 1st meeting include road issues due to large equipment, voting machines vs. mail in or online voting.

Abraham Algadi/WREDC – South Lake Development; concern with lack of child care options; WREDC is now putting available parcels for sale on the website.

Kurt Lintelman/Round Lake Citizen – Round Lake is receiving bids for street improvements; several good properties for sale with advantageous pricing.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County – International Festival this weekend.

Next Meeting:

September 14, 2017 5:30 – 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.