

NEON Minutes
October 12, 2017, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

2018 Legislative Priorities Update: Eliminated Lewis & Clark; added Day Care-Licensing & Staffing issues and Special Project Funding-see if there is grants/funding available to support collaboration projects. Discussion was held on Broadband, funding for small towns for roads, and economic development for the entire county not just Worthington. Steve Schnieder and Doug Knuth are good resources for the funding for small towns for roads-Nobles County serves as the sponsor.

Urban Lawmaker Tour Update: We are in need of a Champion to lead the project. Bill Weber and Joe Schomacker both feel we should conduct the tour during the summer months; Rod Hamilton suggested having a set schedule and tour agenda before we approach potential participants. Possible tour sites: soybean plant, farm tour, schools, dairy farm. They will need lead time so we will keep this on the list for the next agenda.

NEON: We need to come up with another project(s) to focus on.

Around the Table:

Kurt Lintelman/Round Lake – Broadband discussion earlier in the evening.

John Landgaard/ISD 518 – School board election in November; Tuesday the board will most likely approve election for bond referendum in February; Gymnastics/ALC Facility-ready to release for bids in November, December 2018 completion, January 2019 occupancy; Football field is a cow pasture-thank you to the City of Worthington for use of Buss Fields for soccer playoffs today and next week if we win; Prairie Elementary-1,400 people/day in the facility, heavy traffic; SMOC Building-facility wasn't sited correctly so it is being sent back to the planning commission; new ALC facility-up to 140 students, 42,000 square foot building; West Elementary-bulldoze it; preschool-would need to rent space if District 518 was going to run it; Sports Complex-1/2 cent sales tax-school is focusing on academics-will not bond for sports complex; 40 activities at Trojan Field each fall-would get more if we had turf.

Aaron Hagen/Worthington Public Utilities – Rain is good for the wells; Lewis & Clark-working on pipes; Lewis & Clark provides 1.904 million gallons of water/day-we are required to use 25% of that, which will not be a problem.

Poverty Simulation hosted by Community Services was very good exercise, very interesting and educational. Comments were good about the different situations people are in. Pre program/post program survey – some answers changed as were made aware of different issues.

Robert Demuth Jr./Nobles County – Lake Ocheda Management Plan – high phosphorus and carp, it is considered a failed lake, they are going to draw down the lake 2 feet in the fall, approximately August 1, 2018, then hopefully get a killing frost for the 4 feet of water that remains leaving it with clean water and aquatic vegetation. Eleven public hearings have been held for this process to take place, now it will go to the Commissioner for approval.

Colleen Gruis/City of Rushmore – Legislative Platform discussion.

Don Linsen/Nobles County – Budget set at not to exceed 5.94%, meetings continue to lower it.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County – PJC roof project is a money pit, many issues have arose. One takeaway, a good project manager is needed when a building is built. Government Center–waterproofing is near done, confident we are making it a hundred year building. Adrian–Public Works Garage Expansion-will

be able to park 6 trucks inside. Broadband-most fiber will be in the ground this fall, time to get permits for tower is taking longer than anticipated, project is going well.

Shrimp plant – it is a Minnesota plant, there will be a facility in Luverne, Schwans bought into the project, Balaton Plant is a science and research facility, there will be 7 plants total in Minnesota. The company will account for 4% of the US Market for Shrimp. New Vision is looking at producing the feed.

Next Meeting:

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

The meeting adjourned.