

NEON Minutes  
March 8, 2018, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Update from AMC Legislative Conference: Discussions on: METS; bill was presented yesterday to get rid of MN-IT; Mental Health; opioids; broadband; and daycare.

Continuation of Child Care discussion: Regulations-Packets of paperwork is too much, training-need local training that is accessible. Training is held during the day and providers have to shut down to attend. Could MN West be used for training? Employees are quitting work because they cannot find daycare or cannot afford daycare. Daycare providers are having extended hours and therefore they are quitting. What can Government/Businesses do? Daycare facilities can't find help. Average age of current providers in Worthington is high.

BAC IT Equipment: Amy Ernst reported the current equipment was evaluated and the city will fix it up to a presentation only status. If fiber is put in place, further options can be visited at that time.

Welcome, Education, Library, Livability (WELL): There is a bonding bill working its way through the process. Testimony will probably be requested in the next few weeks. Requesting a project cost. Bonding has \$825 million; there are \$2.5 billion in requests. Chamber of Commerce Board is interested in hearing more about the project.

2018 Urban Lawmaker Tour Update: Like the idea of working in conjunction with International Festival. Commissioners will discuss at their next work session.

Around the Table:

Darlene Macklin/Chamber of Commerce: Looking at hosting another legislative breakfast over the legislative spring break. Wild Turkey Shootout is next weekend in Worthington; looking for volunteers if anyone is interested in helping.

Gene Metz/Nobles County: Legislative breakfast was very good, good turnout and were able to have good discussions. Busy with Legislative Session, roads, and water. County is looking at overlaying 25 miles this year. We should be rebuilding 3-4 miles per year in order to keep on track with the 100 year life of a road.

Rod Sankey/Citizen of Worthington: Sold the church he owned in Wilmont. International Festival-can set up an information only booth for free.

Amy Ernst/City of Worthington: Pavilion and Beach House projects are moving forward. Looking at what projects could be addressed if the half cent sales tax gets extended. Could include the half cent sales tax success on the urban lawmaker tour. Ethiopian church wants to build a church by Glenwood Heights across from Olson Park.

Colleen Gruis/City of Rushmore: Completed a community survey in Rushmore. A lot want roads and rural water, other comments include parks and law enforcement. Fire department received 4 stars from everyone! Time commitment for training for Firefighter 1&2 is very extensive, causing problems recruiting the next generation. Decisions are made by people that don't understand the rural areas. KLR Watershed-working with 1Watershed/1Plan, trying to decide if they are going to have a board or a memo of understanding, how to govern it; it is moving along.

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington: Numbers are a big issue: child care, volunteers are both lacking numbers. City is discussing child care issues along with some businesses.

Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless: City of Bigelow is set up for wifi. Testing to be conducted in Dundee and Rushmore. Agribusiness Committee—July 24 will be the Farm to Table event.

Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed: Heron Lake Watershed has been asked by the state to work with the Des Moines River Watershed to coordinate studies that would identify sites, issues, and discuss ideas that would alleviate the issues. Des Moines River Watershed Update Session, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00, soil conservation, county commissioners, community planning are invited to attend at American Legion in Fulda.

Ed Busch/City of Brewster: Brewster opened a fitness center, 40 square foot, secure building, equipment was at the school and it needed to be moved out so created the center. 40 new memberships were signed up. Community Education operates it, city built the building. Life Fitness is the corporate service. Plans are to write a grant for funds for additional equipment. Many main water valves aren't working in Brewster, working on fixing them and adding a few more valves. Veterans Memorial in Brewster park is completed; very nice memorial. Park equipment has been replaced, trees trimmed up. Fire department received new pagers.

Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake: Round Lake did not receive the grant for roads they applied for. Working out details with New Fashion Pork on the proposed feed mill. Round Lake Community Center is fixed up and added insulation. It can be rented for events and has a fitness center.

Don Linssen/Nobles County: Child care issues. Coffee with Commissioners has had a lot of discussions on day care.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County: Boulder that was by Brewster has been moved and placed at Fury Island.

Please forward ideas for the next meeting to the Nobles County Administration Office.

Next Meeting:

April 12, 2018 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
BioTechnology Advancement Center  
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.