

NEON Minutes

April 4, 2019, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

PIPELINE Dual Training Grants

Roxanne Hayenga, Custom Training with Minnesota West Community & Technical College, provided information on the PIPELINE Program established in 2014 to support employers in developing their own dual-training programs to: 1) Engage employers, educators, labor and public agencies to support employment based education; 2) Enhance Minnesota's skilled workforce; and 3) Expand dual training and registered apprenticeship in Minnesota.

Ms. Hayenga also reviewed the Dual Training Grant established in 2015 to reimburse employers for related instruction costs within dual-training programs including tuition and fees, and required books and materials but not including on the job training, administration of dual-training program or grant and travel, housing or meal costs.

The full PowerPoint presentation will be available on the NEON webpage located at <http://www.co.nobles.mn.us/departments/admin/nobles-economic-opportunity-network-neon>.

Flood Disaster Updates

Tom Johnson advised that as of now, the state has not made a declaration and are waiting for the impact of the Red River to recede below the flood level. Nobles County will be eligible for funding if a declaration is made. Paul Langseth was asked to notify townships to email in damage estimates prior to the April 9th annual meeting.

Around the Table:

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington: Mr. Janssen reported the Kwik Trip building is scheduled for a Fall 2019 opening.

Bruce Heitkamp/City of Adrian: Thank you to Commissioners for attending Commissioners At Your Café at Subway. Mr. Heitkamp reported on the Nobles Home Initiative, street funding in legislation, concerns about ambulance staff retiring, and the desire for a natural gas provider in the western portion of Nobles County.

Darlene Macklin/Chamber of Commerce: Ms. Macklin reported on a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, April 5th at GENEX and the Runnings' ribbon cutting will occur in May, Salute to Women event held Monday, April 22nd, Windsurfing Nationals held at the Regatta June 7th through June 9th, State Elks Convention this summer and a new Community Education grant through the Southwest Initiative Foundation to hold "Women of Vision" on May 16th to find what our community is lacking.

Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless: Ms. Foote reported on the Market Smarter event on June 19th.

Gene Metz/ Nobles County: Mr. Metz reported he was at the State Capitol and the Governor has proposed \$70 million over the next 2 years for broadband, CPA and Local Government Aid has been cut drastically, the Governor is proposing a 20 cent gas tax, the County will hold discussions about a half cent sales tax or raising the wheelage tax to fund roads and farm income has been the lowest it's been in 23 years.

Amy Ernst/ City of Worthington: Ms. Ernst reported the City asked for \$25 million over 15 years and cuts in legislation left only \$10 million over 10 years, cutting terms by 5 years. Steve

Robinson and Chad Cummings went to the Capitol and the full \$25 million was reinstated the next day but it will be interesting to see what comes through. The City is moving forward with plans for a Movie Theater, the old liquor store is now an open concept with Public Works and the old MC Fitness remodel is underway for Public Works, the Thompson Hotel, which holds 7 businesses and 39 apartments, has had water damage and is not fit for human habitation. The businesses will stay but for the health and safety of the residents, the City will be evicting them. The City has purchased material for repairing the roof and will be paying the labor. The building is currently listed as a Historical Building.

Bob Demuth Jr./Nobles County: Mr. Demuth reported on the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Prairie View project.

Paul Langseth/Township Association: Mr. Langseth reported on the 6PM April 9th annual township meeting at the Elks Lodge, the Nobles County Soil and Water Conservation District and Okabena Ocheda Watershed District bid opening for the dam on Lake Ocheda.

Wally Habben/City of Round Lake: Mr. Habben reported the City has a boom truck for sale as they purchased a new one and the Round Lake Brewster referendum on May 14th which would add security and a small gymnasium. The referendum would only add \$7.00/year to the taxes of a \$50,000 house.

Donald Linssen/Nobles County: Mr. Linssen reported on delinquent taxes and the County's mission to clean up deteriorating houses by budgeting \$117,000 annually for demolition expenses.

Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake: Mr. Knuth reported the new feed mill may do a test run in May, several events held at the Round Lake Community Center in April and a wall with brass name plates being placed in the Community Center honoring Veterans that graduated from Round Lake and the opening of On Q BBQ.

Ronald Janssen/Seward Township: Mr. Janssen reported that Seward Township still has 4 miles of roadway closed indefinitely and that the Township was just finalizing last year's information with FEMA.

Other

Mr. Johnson reported that the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management has added an online system called WEB EOC which is monitored for area Emergency Personnel to report damage and they are now documenting major festivals in the State in case of Tornadoes and natural disasters so that the area can be notified. Nobles County would load events such as the Windsurfing Regatta, International Festival, County Fair, King Turkey Day, etc.

Mr. Johnson polled the group for interest in attending a SkyWarn Training that could be scheduled early May and the advised that the State is trying to prepare in case of an Ag related emergency.

Next Meeting:

May 2, 2019

5:30 to 7:00 PM

BioTechnology Advancement Center, 1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.