

NEON Minutes
September 5, 2019 Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Nobles II Wind Update – Mortenson

Tom Johnson provided information for the Nobles II Wind project. They are laying infrastructure and want that completed by Thanksgiving, 74-80 towers will be built. In the spring as soon as weather allows they will begin building the towers. Approximately 200 employees will be working here. Goal is to be done by July. They put down 10 inches of gravel on all of the haul roads, they have been good about repairing any damage they have done to the roads. Public Works inspected the roads prior to them coming in: bore, compaction, ultrasound tests on the roads; and will inspect them upon completion.

Industrial Hemp: future meeting agenda item.

Volunteers needed for subcommittees:

- A. Infrastructure for Natural Gas: Coleen Gruis, Gene Metz, Bruce Heitkamp
- B. Daycare Subcommittee Volunteers: Coleen Gruis, Darlene Macklin

Around the Table:

Lori Dudley/ISD 518: Learning Center open house was supposed to be August 29 but was postponed, students will start on Monday, September 9. 3,433 students in District 518; increase of 90 kids from last year. Enrollment has increased about 100 kids/year. Audit is almost complete. School Board committed \$3 million to the referendum.

Paul Langseth/Indian Lake Township: Townships-Legislative and research state committee meets next week to work on things proactively before Legislation starts. Trails are important to the State Trail system. Promote Casey Jones trail and bonding bill.

Julie Foote/ MVTV Wireless: Women of Vision presented to the School Board; will be presenting to Nobles County on September 17 and Worthington City Council on September 18. Presentation on ideas on how they can help out on programs needing assistance. Hemp farms-David Stenzel-working with land owners for CBC production, have one in Jackson County, working on one by Rushmore. They need a building to continue production. Hope to have David present at a future NEON meeting.

Don Linssen/Nobles County: WELL project-need to come up with who will own the building. Hotel Thompson-hot topic and a lot of phone calls, Nobles County has nothing to do with the Hotel Thompson.

Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake: Round Lake Community Center-adding a Marshall Art class, auction in September, On Q BBQ is doing really well with catering. New business starting up in the old Cenex Station-refinished furniture. New Fashion Pork is up and going, Fire Department toured it so they are prepared if necessary.

Gene Metz/Nobles County: BRRR-leased to Eastern & Ellis-looking to refurbish the line between Adrian and Magnolia so they can transport heavier cars, transport green energy. Burlington Northern and UP operate on both ends of the rail. Rail to Road Cement plant south of Worthington is doing well, there is currently a shortage of cement powder so that has slowed them down, October 9 is their ribbon cutting.

Linden Olson/ISD 518: Problem in Prairie Elementary, short 2 EL teachers, hired more paras to help cover. Shortage of EL teachers is hurting the district right now. Support our schools meeting—confusion/miss information. Question 1: Build a 4th and 5th Grade school for 600 students. Question 2: Build a 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade school for 900 students. Question 3: Convert the present lease levy bonds to a general obligation bonds-this will get the state to pay down the ag land 70% over the next few years, replace the lease levy for the ALC/Gymnastics facility and the project at the high school, it will not increase taxes on businesses or residents. The bonding group is going to be in Worthington on October 9.

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington: Digging footings for the theatre. QuikTrip is moving forward, plan to open in September.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County: Meeting with DNR-water issues at Lone Tree area-Seward Township; it was an encouraging meeting, hope to receive some assistance. House committee is committed to a tour for the WELL project. County road construction is done for the year. Bridge bids today came in high. Started work on Highway 91 north of Adrian, DHS Hearings, Mental Health Center—everything the State has asked for is complete, working with SWMH to be the operator, working with an engineer to finalize the design.

Lake Ocheda draw down has started. A lot of junk is showing up on the exposed shore. Public utilities is putting a water line under the lake bed, almost done.

5G is coming – some of the implications: are properties zoned for the towers to be placed?

Next Meeting:

October 3, 2019 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.