

NEON Minutes October 3, 2019 Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Presentation – Industrial Hemp Farming / Production Facility

Dave Stenzel – Industrial Hemp farmer/Stenzel Family Farms. With the Farm Bill being passed in 2018 it opened door for this industry. Stenzel Family Farms is in a partnership with two other companies (marketing/branding) with a goal to start a production facility within Nobles County- seed and end product.

Their first product launched in October –Level Select which is a CBD cream. Their goal is it have a clean product which they can grow and control it to the shelf. Their farm currently has 3 green houses. 270 acers of industrial hemp. Their payroll includes 100 total. (6 full time, some seasonal) Horticulturist, genetics. Currently there are around 314 registered hemp farmers in the US.

FDA regulations create the need for a larger processing plant to stay compliant. They want to allow producers with options for large amounts of processing in the area. There is a need to be able to process the product so it doesn't go to waste. Currently looking for 10-20 acers to build the processing plant. They have blue prints for the building / storage needs. Would like a location with good traffic and access for trucks. All utilities will be needed.

Around the table

Coleen Gruis/City of Rushmore, City Clerk:

Daycare – Rushmore did not get daycare grant from DEED. Need to figure out new route – working on options and other possibilities.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County, Administrator:

The City held a brainstorming meeting with about 20 citizens in attendance on Prairie View and ideas/wants/needs.

Census Complete Count – City is forming complete count committee. Message out to Townships– encourage people to participate. Need familiar faces – Jason Brisson is leading it.

Start thinking of legislative needs that will be brought forth at conference.

Updated on the State Bonding Committee coming to tour the W.E.L.L. site, West School building and the Library on October 9th.

Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless/Community Education:

Social Media breakfast is starting up again at the BAC – breakfast provided. Look for upcoming dates and times.

Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township, Citizen:

Updated on meeting with FEMA regarding wash outs from Spring. Using crushed rock to improve gravel roads.

Gene Metz/Nobles County, Commissioner:

Updated on discussions at AMC regarding legalizing cannabis.

PACE - \$300,000 in projects which is used for any business to make improvements to utilities to more energy efficient. Put the word out for interest. Contact Gene Metz for more information.

Linden Olson/ISD518, School Board:

School projects – Trojan athletic field (Middle School) received improvements. Parking lot at Middle School baseball field parking lot will be worked on in the fall. New ALC building will hold an open house after the outside can be finished. Spoke on the upcoming referendum and the news articles that were published.

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington, Council:

Kwik Trip is up and running – seems to be good business. Gave update on movie theater process.

Gary Larson/City of Round Lake, Council:

Feed mill is up and running, production is going well.

Michelle Ebbers/Nobles County, Public Health Supervisor:

Nobles County is in need of daycare. Discussed Dental needs in the area and gaining more access for quality providers.

Lori Dudley/ISD518, School Board:

Discussed the Snapchat shooting scare. Expressed thanks for the public being patient during the investigation. Police department was quick to respond and investigate. The school was able to use their Crisis plan and identified possible tweaks for the future.

Next Meeting:

November 7, 2019 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

BioTechnology Advancement Center

1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.