

**Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)**  
**January 4, 2010**  
**Board Meeting Room**

President Sukalski called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. Board members present were: Pierce, Pribyl, Grupe, and Boler. Absent: Schmidtke and Clark. Other present were: Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Bryan Stading, RCEF Director (Business Facilitator). Public present: Rex Oberhelman.

Motion by Pribyl, seconded by Grupe to approve the agenda with one deletion-4.1 Finalize and Adopt Action Plan for MCEDA. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Boler to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2009 regular EDA meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

Stading handed out the monthly client report and reviewed the report with the Board. Stading further stated that the biggest obstacle faced by most of the clients is getting financing and obtaining loans. Stading informed the Board that RCEF has an intern on board and is working diligently on various projects that include follow up calls with clients, developing client survey questionnaire for services received from RCEF.

Sukalski thanked Stading for his report.

Higgins stated that the Area Career Exploration (ACE) event is scheduled for April 7, 2010 at the Fairmont High School. The EDA will again have a booth this year and is a sponsoring entity of this event. Higgins stated that a sign up sheet to work the booth will be sent out to all members. There was discussion by the Board to include juniors and seniors in the event rather than just limit it to sophomores. Boler suggested that the juniors and Senior attend the program in the afternoon and the sophomores in the morning hours. Grupe suggested that the ACE event require the students to visit at least three businesses that fit their career aptitudes. Sukalski stated he will contact Bob Wallace (Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce) and/or Garey Ferguson (Workforce Center) to invite them to the next board meeting to engage in further discussion on this matter

Pribyl stated that the FMC provides opportunities for career exploration through Club Med, which gives the participants hands on experience and exposes them to opportunities in the medical field.

Pribyl stated that the EDA needs to look at what we can do to make these types of ideas come to fruition. Pribyl continued that it may be a good opportunity during the ACE event that the businesses make it known whether they have internships available for the students.

Pierce stated that as students leave the area for college, some sort of effort could be put together to keep in contact with these students and let them know of career opportunities in their home town.

Higgins presented the bills to be paid for November 2009.

Motion by Boler, seconded by Pierce to ratify payment of bills for November 2009. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Stading reminded the Board of the upcoming Core 4 Business Planning Courses to be held in Fairmont, starting January 20, 2010, classes to be held at the Southern Minnesota Education Campus (SMEC) here in Fairmont.

Stading provided a hand out to the Board regarding the upcoming Marketplace for Entrepreneurs event to again be held in Mankato at the Verizon Center. It is expected that the vendor booths will fill up fast.

Stading handout and information brochure of a Swedish firm known as HOTTAB that is looking at possibilities for business opportunity with Schell's brewery in New Ulm. This comes as result of their visit a few years ago to the area.

Sukalski opened the meeting for public comments.

Oberhelman stated his appreciation to the EDA board for their support for his project (use of switch grass to produce ethanol), but inquired why the County Board of Commissioners did not support the EDA Board's recommendation for support. Currently the Blue Ribbon Foundation is working with Coleen Landkamer, USDA for loan guarantees for our project that would produce ethanol using switch grass. We have the raw material right here. We were working with Corn Plus on this project and without the local support; we cannot secure the money to do the project.

Sukalski stated that it evident that Corn Plus indicated that there was no project. Oberhelman stated that this was a miscommunication on his part.

By consensus, it was determined to hold the next meeting on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 5:00p.m.in the Commissioner Board room.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Pribyl to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21p.m.

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Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

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Attest: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer