

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
February 7, 2011
Board Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by President Sukalski at 5:22 p.m. Board members present were: Pierce, Clark, Schmidtke, Grupe, and Boler. Absent: One position vacant. Other present were: Scott Higgins, County Coordinator and Bryan Stading, RCEF Director, Jon Herzog, Business Facilitator for Martin County.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Pierce to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Clark to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011 regular meeting. Carried unanimously.

No Old Business

Stading reviewed the monthly client report with Board, stating that over the last month, there have been 11 sessions for over 40 hours.

The Board inquired of the status of the House of Hope. Stading stated that the organization is in negotiations for the property.

Herzog gave an update to the Commission that the community visits are still happening and will be meeting with all of the communities in the county, and that he will be talking to the Ormsby City Council tonight. Herzog gave an update on the two business seminars that have taken place-Business Planning in a Day and the Small Business Tax Seminar. The seminar evaluation surveys resulted in very positive feedback from the participants. Also, we have received input on other business seminars participants would like to see. Herzog further stated that the LinkedIn seminar is coming up in a couple of weeks and looking to host the Principles in Lean Manufacturing in March. Herzog concluded that these business seminars are part of the business facilitation program.

Herzog gave an update on the status of the upgrade to the EDA website. After looking into the various options discussed during the last EDA meeting, it was determined that the best option would be to contract with a web designer. The agreement is for \$539 for design and implementation of website and two year hosting of website. We will have the capabilities of administering the website. The plan is to have business templates, information, and other forms on the website. The board reviewed the home page view.

Stading reviewed the DEED grant midterm Report of Outcomes with the Board. Stading stated that the report covers the period from July 2010-December 2010. Some of the numbers include: 36 jobs were created, 6 businesses started, 5 businesses stabilized, and 7 businesses expanded to list a few of the performance factors.

Finally, Herzog stated that the Intern we had on board, resigned due to her workload. She was working on the EDA's marketing packet. We will need to reprioritize and get that put together.

Sukalski thanked Stading and Herzog for their reports.

Clark presented information to the Commission regarding advertising the EDA on KSUM radio and services available to businesses through the EDA. The proposal would include two to three minute interviews to be recorded. The Board reviewed the proposal. After further discussion,

Motion by Clark, seconded by Pierce to approve expenditures for development of advertising with KSUM, and to direct staff to develop a marketing program for IGNITE; and to report back to the next board meeting on options for consideration. Carried unanimously.

Sukalski stated the need for the EDA to initiate a joint meeting with the other local units of governments to discuss the possibility of sharing services and collaborating between the schools, cities, county, and townships. This will give everyone the opportunity to talk about the challenges we face in these tough economic times.

Pierce stated that the participants in the Martin County Leadership Program are talking about the needs and ideas on collaboration between local governments and other agencies.

Sukalski the ideas would be to bring in a specialist/facilitator and begin planning a summit type of meeting. Stading suggested that the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation could serve as a moderator.

Higgins presented the proposed changes to the EDA By-laws as proposed during the previous EDA meeting. After discussion and by consensus of the Board it was determined not to make any changes to the By-Laws and that all members would receive the per diems set by the County Board as it does for all the citizen advisory boards and commissions.

Higgins presented the bills to paid for February 2011,

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Pierce to approve payment of the February bills as presented in the amount of \$3,020.14. Carried unanimously.

The year to date financial reports were also presented and reviewed by the Board.

Higgins reviewed the information included in the agenda packets that included the upcoming ACE event on April 6, 2011 and the January MC Leadership Program participant survey.

By consensus, the Board set the next meeting for Monday, March 7, 2011 at 5:15 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse-Board Room.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Grupe to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41p.m.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Randy Grupe, Secretary/Treasurer, MCEDA