

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
February 9, 2009 5:00pm
Commissioner's Board Room

The meeting was called to order by President Sukalski at 5:09pm. Those present were Grupe, Clark, and Boler. Absent: Kotewa. Other present were: Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Bryan Stading, and Director for RCEF, Linda Meschke, and Director for Rural Advantage, and Rex Oberhelman.

Sukalski introduced Stading and asked that he give an update on the upcoming Marketplace Entrepreneurial Event to be held on February 23, 2009 at the Alltel Center in Mankato, MN.

Stading informed the Board that Dave Anderson, Founder of Famous Dave's will be the keynote speaker. There will be break out sessions throughout the day, business resources, networking, and much more. It is open to the public and no admission charge. At this time, we have a number of booth spaces available. The important thing is that we get people to the event. It is an opportunity for entrepreneurs and businesses to share their products, learn, and use the businesses resources that will be there. Set up will be Sunday evening and reception to follow. Pierce had emailed the information to a number of business people.

Schmidtke arrived at 5:11pm.

Clark stated that he has shared the information with the Entrepreneur group he is associated with.

Stading further stated that a group in Rochester already wants to host the event next year.

Sukalski reminded everyone of the upcoming Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Futures Summit to be held on March 13, 2009.

Pierce arrived at 5:14pm.

Sukalski asked for approval of agenda

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Pierce to approve the agenda with one addition: Pyrolysis Project Update-Meschke. Carried unanimously.

Meschke gave an update of the Pyrolysis project stating that Dr. Ruan with the University of Minnesota spoke today here in Fairmont on the project and all appears to be moving forward. The grant money received from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) will be used to pay for feasibility of building the equipment. It is expected that the mobile units will be completed by end of the year to be used a demonstration models.

Sukalski inquired if there would be money available for such a project from the Federal stimulus money.

Meschke responded that it is expected that stimulus money would be available for such a project because it relates to a renewable energy project.

Pierce inquired when is the project expected to go to commercialization. Meschke responded that we'll know more six months from now.

Sukalski stated that all indications Mr. Kotewa is resigning and asked if the Board has names to submit to fill the vacancy.

Boler stated that Steve Pribyl, CAO Fairmont Hospital and Clinics Mayo Health System is interested and willing to serve on the Board.

Schmidtke inquired of residency requirements by the EDA bylaws. Higgins read the portion of the by laws stating that a person is eligible to be appointed if they are employed in Martin County. Pierce stated that Mr. Pribyl would have good insight and input for the EDA.

Motion by Sukalski, seconded by Pierce to recommend Steve Pribyl, CAO Fairmont Hospital and Clinic-Mayo Health System for appointment to the Martin County Economic Development Authority Board to fill the Kotewa vacancy, for the term expiring December 31, 2009. Clark, Pierce, Sukalski, Grupe, Boler voting in favor. Schmidtke voting against. Motion carried.

Election of officers:

Motion by Clark, seconded by Grupe to nominate Sukalski to another term as President of the EDA Board. There were no other nominations. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Schmidtke to nominate Grupe as Vice-President. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Sukalski to cast unanimous ballot for Grupe as Vice-President of the Martin County EDA. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Schmidtke to nominate Chris Pierce as Secretary/Treasurer. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Clark to cast a unanimously ballot for Chris Pierce as Secretary/Treasurer for the Martin County EDA. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Boler, seconded by Clark to approve the Board minutes of the December 15, 2008 Board meeting. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reminded the Board that the By-laws require the EDA Board to give an annual report to the County Board of Commissioners of the EDA's financial status, existing projects and programs as well as future projects or programs conducted by the EDA. Sukalski stated the he and the Secretary/Treasurer and County Coordinator to meet soon and formulate the report.

Sukalski introduced the subject matter pertaining to the Intern Project Update. Stading informed the Board that Kevin Lake has hit the ground running and is devoted most of his time putting together the Marketplace event and will soon be devoting time to put together a inventory of assets in the county. Looking to formulate a brown bag lunch type program throughout the county to bring together some of the business leaders, community leaders together and get the necessary information in order to build a date base resources for the county to refer individuals to for their business needs.

Pierce asked what the timeline would be for this project. Stading responded approximately six weeks.

Sukalski stated the need to have an inventory of the county assets as well for economic development purposes (i.e. transportation including railroad access and interstate, electric transmission lines, gas line, building available, etc.)

Stading reviewed the monthly client report with the Board. There have been a number of contacts with existing businesses and individuals just starting out. Stading asked that the names be kept confidential.

Clark stated that due to the confidentiality, to not put the names of the individuals in the spreadsheet and reference by number. Stading stated he would revise accordingly.

Sukalski opened discussion on setting the regular meeting dates for the year. After discussion,

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Schmidtke to approve the first Monday of each month beginning at 5:00pm in the Commissioners meeting room located at 201 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, MN. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Pierce to approve payment of the January and February 2009 bills, Carried unanimously.

Boler and Grupe left the meeting at 6:14pm.

The Board reviewed the CY2008 fourth quarter budget report.

Higgins presented information received pertaining to the upcoming KSUM/KFMC Spring Expo to be held at the Five Lakes Center in Fairmont-March 6, 7, 8, 2009. The EDA board did have a booth display last year along with radio advertising and live radio remotes. After discussion,

Motion by Clark, seconded by Pierce to approve and authorize expenditure and per diems to participate in the KSUM/KFMC Spring Expo at the Five Lakes Center in Fairmont, MN-March 6, 7, 8, 2009. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated a sign up sheet to work the booth will be sent out.

There was discussion on "carbon footprints" and the potential costly impact it may have on businesses.

With no further business to wit, Motion by Clark, seconded by Sukalski to adjourn. Carried unanimously, Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer