

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
April 6, 2009 5:00pm
Commissioner's Board Room

Meeting called to order at 5:11am by President Sukalski. Members present were: Clark, Pierce, Pribyl, and Schmidtke. Others present were S. Higgins, County Coordinator, B. Stading, RCEF Director, Kevin Lake, RCEF Intern, and R. Oberhelman.

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

Board reviewed the minutes for the March 2, 2009 meeting. No changes were made. Sukalski declared minutes approved.

Sukalski reviewed letter of support to Lance Crombie for the proposed cellulose ethanol project. Sukalski gave a brief update on the presentation by Dr. Lance Crombie and Rex Oberhelman. There were a number of people in attendance, including Chris Pierce, Linda Meschke, President of Rural Advantage, Wayne Kahler, Reggie Edwards, Executive Director of Region 9, Commissioner Steve Donnelly, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Bill Groskrietz, Faribault County Commissioner, Tom Loveall, Faribault County Commissioner, and the Jennifer Brookens, Sentinel Reporter. Sukalski further stated that the presentation was for the production of the enzyme to be used in cellulose ethanol production. The enzyme would come from a certain alfalfa plant. It was stated that the production of this enzyme is being proposed for the Corn Plus ethanol facility located in Winnebago, MN. Sukalski also stated that Martin County could be affected due to the need to grow the alfalfa. Sukalski stated that a letter of support has been requested from the EDA and may be in order. Permits are to be obtained by Crombie. The project proposes the need to for 10,000 acres of ground to grow the required alfalfa. Sukalski read the proposed letter of support aloud.

Sukalski inquired of Oberhelman if the project gets started and is successful who controls the enzyme and what is the key to keep the shareholder protected with the revenue being produced by this enzyme.

Oberhelman responded it would be set up like a utility and will have control.

Pierce stated that it would be a good idea to use Linda Meschke's expertise in this area to assist the EDA for such projects before the money dries up for such projects. After further discussion,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Pribyl to approve and authorize the Board President to sign a letter of support to Lance Crombie for the research and development of cellulose ethanol refinery project. Carried unanimously.

Stading reviewed the monthly business facilitation client report. Pribyl inquired if the amount of activity has decreased or increased. Stading responded that overall it has slowed down some, however some believe there is opportunity in the stimulus money that is available.

Lake (intern) presented and reviewed the proposed advertising brochure for the upcoming meetings to meet with business leaders in order to formulate an inventory of business leader contacts and resources in the county. There was much discussion on the purpose of the meetings, dates and meeting times. It was determined to make the changes suggested and send to board members for further review and approval.

Higgins gave the Board an update as to the status of legislation for the continuation of the entrepreneurial and small business facilitation program in Martin County.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Clark to approve the bills for April 2009. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the monthly financial statement for March 2009. Higgins informed the Board of the upcoming Minnesota Inventors Congress to be held on June 12-13, 2009 in Redwood Falls, MN. Higgins reminded the Board that the Area Career Exploration Fair to be held on May 6, 2009 at the Fairmont High School and the announced the Annual Martin County Township Meeting to be held on April 14, 2009 at 6:30pm in Welcome, MN at the Legion Hall.

It was stated that the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 5:00pm in the Courthouse.

With no further business to wit, Motion by Clark, seconded by Pribyl to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer