

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
July 7, 2009 12:00pm
Sisseton Conference Room

President Sukalski called the meeting to order at 12:16pm. Board members present were: Pierce, Grupe, Schmidtke, and Boler. Absent: Pribyl and Clark. Others present were: Steve Donnelly, Steve Pierce, Jack Potter, Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Representative Robert Gunther, Bryan Stading, RCEF Director, and Jeff Jensen, Rural Advantage.

Sukalski welcomed everyone and thanked the County Board for attending the meeting. Each person in attendance introduced himself or herself.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Schmidtke to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2009 as presented. Carried unanimously

Stading reviewed the monthly client report for consultation services provided in the previous month. Sukalski thanked Stading for the report.

Higgins presented the grant agreement between the Martin County EDA and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) in the amount of \$63,000 for FY10; and is required to be matched dollar for dollar. Higgins stated that a few typos were noted and are in process to be corrected. After review and discussion,

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Boler to approve and authorize the Board President to sign the grant agreement between the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Martin County EDA-IGNITE in the amount of \$63,000 for FY10; and to provide for the required grant match. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented the bills to be paid in July 2009, after review,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Schmidtke to approve the bills for the month of July 2009. Carried unanimously.

Jensen (Rural Advantage) gave a status report of the development of the Pyrolysis project being done by Kahler Automation, Inc in Fairmont. Jensen stated that it is projected to have demonstration units by spring 2010.

Higgins reviewed the general information included in the Board packets.

Sukalski introduced the next business item to finalize the EDA's strategic plan. Sukalski stated that the Board met to discuss a strategic plan for the EDA and the need to take the ideas discussed and place them into an action plan.

Higgins gave a brief historical update as to what has occurred stating that the Board has developed a Vision and Mission statement (included in board packet; reviewed the discussion and ideas shared, and questions asked of each of the board members during the strategic plan meeting held last June.

Stading presented a draft report and gave an overview of the business consultation services provided by RCEF, the various activities, and collaborative efforts completed by the Martin County EDA.

Sukalski stated that included in the board packets is an action plan chart. Sukalski stated that the purpose is to establish priorities and goals for the EDA in the next 2, 5, 10 years.

Schmidtke stated that the EDA should not so much concentrate on attracting new businesses, but to assist existing business.

Donnelly stated that the county had completed a business retention and expansion study in the 1990's.

Pierce concurred that working with existing business is a real opportunity and key to economic development.

Donnelly suggested that the EDA needs someone out on the streets to talk with businesses and find out what there needs may be.

Stading stated that this is a way to have the business community get to know what the EDA is all about.

Boler stated the need for the Martin County EDA to get more involved in the City of Fairmont with all the empty buildings throughout town.

Potter was pleased that the EDA was involved in helping local businesses.

Commissioners left the meeting at 1:28pm.

Grupe inquired whether the State's tax structure for attracting businesses that we cannot rebound.

The Board established the following priorities, along with who and when various task should be accomplished for the EDA to include: Business Facilitation, Community Involvement, Education, sources of funding for the EDA, Marketing/Outreach, Staffing for the EDA, Community Assets Building, Technology, establishing Legislative Priorities, a loan or incentive program for development or expansion of businesses.

There was a brief discussion of the EDA's fair booth at the County Fair in August and the need to put together a brochure of the EDA's accomplishments in the past two years. Higgins will put together.

Discussion ensued on establishing local business visits by the board members of the EDA and to break down as follows, Retail/Mfg., Agriculture, Medical, Government, Services. Sukalski asked that each member consider what areas they wish to conduct business visits in and the need to develop a questionnaire for such visits. It was determined that this project be discussed further at the next EDA meeting.

Higgins reviewed the monthly financial statement for May 2009, which included a detail breakdown of revenue and expenses since the inception of the DEED grant program.

Higgins reviewed the information as listed in the agenda.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Boler to adjourn at 3:34pm. Carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer