

Martin County Economic Development Authority
September 2, 2008, 5:00pm
Commissioners' Board Room

Meeting Called to order by President Sukalski. At 3:05 p.m. Members present were: Pierce, Boler, Schmidtke. Others present were S. Higgins, County Coordinator and Bryan Stading, Director, RCEF.

President Sukalski asked for corrections to the August 4, 2008 regular meeting. With no corrections, Sukalski declared minutes approved as presented.

As a result of the strategic planning session held in June, a draft Vision and Mission statement was presented and reviewed by the Board.

Schmidtke stated the need to include that the EDA is a "one stop shop or resource" to entrepreneurs and businesses.

Clark arrived at the meeting at 3:25pm.

Clark stated the need to include "existing business" in the vision statement and that the Mission statement needs to be simple and short.

After much discussion and wordsmithing, the following Vision and Mission statements were formulated.

Proposed Vision Statement:

"To facilitate, support and encourage Martin County Entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing business owners with their ideas working from the bottom up; as to prepare and sustain our vibrant community for the future with strategic planning, community ownership and a highly approachable cohesive organization."

Proposed Mission Statement:

"The Mission of the Martin County EDA program is to Inspire the Growth and Nurture Innovative Entrepreneurs Through Empowerment (IGNITE)."

Discussion began on finalizing the priorities for the EDA. It was stated that the main priority for the EDA is to respond immediately to requests, to conduct educational workshops to help entrepreneurs and businesses-this is critical priority. No further action taken.

Higgins reviewed the upcoming International BioEnergy Days Conference to be held September 28-October 3, 2008 at the MSU Campus in Mankato. A delegation from Switzerland is visiting Minnesota with the possibility of establishing businesses in the state. The need to have a booth at the Conference was discussed. Stading indicated that having a booth is nearly \$1,000, almost not affordable for most groups. Stading stated that the event is still in the planning stages. Further discussion ensued on the need to invite various businesses in the county to be a part of the booth. Stading presented a list of agencies that will have booths at the conference.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County EDA approve and authorize expenditures for purchase of booth space and authorize expenditures related to the International Bio Energy Days Conference to be held at the MSU Campus in Mankato, MN; and to contact various businesses to be included in the booth if they so desire. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Boler to approve and authorize per diems and expenses for the EDA Board members to attend the International BioEnergy Days Conference in Mankato, MN, September 28-October 3, 2008. Carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on the need to appoint citizens to sub- committees to assist the EDA in various areas. No action taken.

Stading reviewed the monthly client contact report with the Board. Indicating the success of the DEED grant program.

Discussion ensued on the need to develop a marketing brochure/packet for the Martin County EDA. By consensus the Board directed that samples from other EDA's be obtained and presented at the next regular meeting.

By consensus, the next meeting was set for Monday, September 15, 2008 at 5:00pm in the Board Room (Courthouse).

With no further business to wit, motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Clark to adjourn. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm.

Lawrence Sukalski, MCEDA Chair

ATTEST: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer