

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
September 14, 2009
Board Meeting Room

President Sukalski called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. Board members present were: Pierce, Clark, Pribyl, and Boler. Other present were: Bob Wallace, Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, Garey Ferguson, Minnesota Workforce (Fairmont), Scott Higgins, County Coordinator,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Boler to approve the agenda with the following deletions, 5.1 Monthly Client Report, 7.2 Monthly Financial Statement for July/August 2009. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Boler to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2009 regular EDA meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

Grupe arrived at 5:13p.m.

Sukalski presented the Action Plan for Board review and comment. (Schmidtke arrived 5:15 p.m.). Higgins reviewed the 10 priority areas to include: Business Facilitation, Community Projects, County Education, Funding, Marketing/Outreach, Support Staff, Business Resources (Community Asset Building), Technology, Legislative Priorities, Loan Program, goals for each priority area and who to accomplish the priority and timelines.

Discussion ensued on the need to market the EDA webpage including adding a feature to keep track of number of hits on the site and the need to make sure there is information on buildings and sites available for business development. Pribyl suggested that along with technology to include search engine optimization for the EDA's webpage. Clark stated the need to recruit interns to assist the EDA in various areas. Pribyl stated that with the number of priorities listed the EDA will need staffing to accomplish them all and the priorities should be boiled down to 3-4. Schmidtke suggested that Business Facilitation and staffing should be the priorities of the EDA. Clark suggested that each member rate the listed priorities and discuss at the next meeting.

Wallace presented the Board with the Area Career Exploration (ACE) booklets and stated his appreciation for IGNITE's sponsorship of the ACE program this year. Wallace gave a brief review of the event and stated that plans are underway to conduct the program again next year. Wallace requested sponsorship and participation of IGNITE in next year's ACE event in the amount of \$2,000, stating that there was enough sponsorship money that the EDA would not be billed for this year. Pribyl stated that he would be in support of sponsorship. Grupe stated that the booklet was very well done and is one of the best he has seen. Boler inquired why juniors and seniors are included.

Wallace responded that typically the juniors and seniors would over power the sophomores and would not be a good mix. Ferguson added that by having the

sophomores involved in the career fair they will get an idea of what they may want to do and take classes accordingly for their remaining high school career. Ferguson further stated that ISEEK has found that mixing the junior and seniors with sophomores hasn't worked.

Sukalski stated that the Board has approved the \$2,000 already for 2009 and would be willing to go ahead and expend for sponsorship for next year's program.

Nick Nelson, CEO Midwest Biogas Company was on hand to give an update and answer questions the board may have as a result of the presentation on September 4, 2009. Nelson stated that the company is working to solidify it's numbers, we will soon have more funding coming in needed to continue the planning process, we have met with various landowners to purchase land, and are planning to begin small (Phase 1). Nelson stated that there will be more meetings in the future as we make progress on the various planning (i.e. permitting).

Clark asked who all is involved in the company, who makes up the officers of the company and whether the company has some sort of financial statement or balance sheet. We would like to know who you are dealing with. Conceptually the project looks great.

Nelson responded that there is a board of directors and those involved in the company are on the company's website. Nelson further stated that there are six investors and we are working with SHE (an Engineering firm) who has a great deal on investment in this project. Midwest Biogas will be a smaller part of this.

Pierce inquired if the company had the needed feedstock for the plant lined up or readily available.

Nelson responded that we have been talking with the various canneries in the area, laying hen companies, and working to obtain letters of intent from swine producers.

Pierce inquired if the company will be doing this with existing systems.

Nelson stated that the company will be bringing in waste from the area. We are adding value to the waste and will be making renewable energy as a result.

Schmidtke stated that we certainly look forward to the project and that we need to be open about it. We are here for job development

Nelson stated that the company is working with EASI Automation as a provider of the automation equipment for the proposed plant. Martin County is conducive to such a facility because of the infrastructure available to include a major pipeline, rail lines, and roads to get materials to and out of the plant.

Sukalski stated that due to the climate change legislation being proposed, if there is a way to produce clean energy with manure it will help the legislation in Congress.

Pierce inquired of Nelson if they have determined their cost of production. Nelson responded in the affirmative based on long term projections of natural gas trading at \$7.00.

Commissioner Steve Pierce was present to answer questions regarding the request from the Fairmont Economic Development Authority (FEDA) for the County EDA to participate financially for upgrade and repair of a the rail spur in the Fairmont Industrial Park. The cost of the total project is \$29,800 and is to be divided three ways equally with FEDA and Hancor, Inc., which equates to \$9,933.33 each.

Grupe stated his concern for setting a precedent in paying for repairs for private businesses. Pierce concurred, but stated that the rail spur is not owned by Hancor and is owned by Fairmont Go a not for profit organization.

Motion by Sukalski, seconded by Pierce to approve \$9,333.33 to the Fairmont Economic Development Authority (FEDA) for upgrade to the rail spur located in the Fairmont Industrial Park. Carried unanimously.

By consensus of the board it was determined to meet Monday, September 20, 2009 at 7:00a.m. at the Ranch Restaurant in Fairmont to review the Action plan and to establish 3-4 priorities.

Higgins presented the bills to be paid for August and September 2009.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Pierce to approve and ratify the bills for August and September 2009. Carried unanimously.

By consensus, it was determined to hold the next meeting on Monday, October 12, 2009 at 5:00p.m.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Sukalski, seconded by Boler to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47p.m.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer