

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
April 6, 2015
Board Room-Martin County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Chris Pierce at 5:21 p.m. Board members present were: Randy Grupe, Elliot Belgard, Jerry Clark, Absent: Larry Baarts, Brent Schultze, and Dan Schmidtke. Others present: Bryan Stading, Business Facilitator for Martin County EDA, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Lindsay, Preuss, Fairmont Economic Development Authority, Mike Murphy, KFMC/KSUM, Rod Halverson, KFMC/KSUM.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Belgard to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Grupe to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 regular board minutes. Carried unanimously,

Pierce and Stading gave a brief update on the Brain Gain project stating that the projects continues to be discussed and that this is something the EDA should consider being a part of.

Stading gave monthly business consultation report for March 2015 for a total of 16 sessions for a total of 55 hours, in addition gave an update with regard to non-client work, which included work on the Blandin Community Broadband program, Brain Gain Proposed project, monthly EDA meeting, and KSUM radio programming.

Stading gave a brief update on the legislative funding for the business facilitation grant program, stating that it appears the proposed legislation is still up for consideration.

Stading reviewed the final draft of the of the 2014 EDA Annual Report and asked for board review and comments. Stading stated that if all is accurate, he and members of the EDA will need to present to the county board. Pierce noted corrections needed for the board listing.

Higgins gave a brief update on the Blandin Broadband Communities Program projects, stating that

The Martin County/Blandin Broadband Steering Committee has prioritized four “broadband” projects for Martin County that include the following:

- 1) Installation of Public Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the county
- 2) Community Calendar (countywide)
- 3) Citizen and Business Training Sessions and ”App Camp”
- 4) Broadband Gap Study

The Steering Committee has submitted two project grant application to the Blandin Foundation 1) Training/"App Camp", 2) Community Calendar. It is anticipated that the remaining project grants request will be submitted for the second round on June 19, 2015. The Blandin Foundation will notify of grant awards later this month.

If awarded the grant applications require a minimum of 25% match (which may include in-kind match). The required cash match (some or all) for the two projects that have been submitted (April 1, 2015) is expected to come from County Recorder Technology Funds.

The focus of the Martin County EDA/Steering Committee through the Blandin Broadband Communities program (BBCP) is to enhance access to broadband throughout the county for both county residents and businesses. The BBCP is an intensive, two-year partnership between the Martin County EDA and the Blandin Foundation. Blandin program provides planning, technical and financial support to communities in order to bring the benefits of broadband-enabled economy to the county and its communities.

Be It resolved that the Martin County EDA hereby approves the following project grant applications to Blandin Foundation Broadband Communities Project: Training/"App Camp" (\$24,950) and the Community Calendar project (\$9,000); and if awarded, the 25% required cash match for the aforementioned grant request in estimated amount of \$8,737.50.

Higgins presented the bills to be paid on April 6, 2015 in the amount of \$5,525.94.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Clark, to approve payment of bills as presented to be paid on April 6, 2015 in the amount of \$5,525.94. Carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on the potential of missing monthly billings. Higgins stated if there are other bills to be paid for the month, they would be brought to the board for review.

The Board reviewed the monthly CY2015 YTD Financial Statements.

Higgins reviewed the information included in the agenda packets including the Grant response letter from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, Thank you letter for the Area Career Exploration (ACE) held on April 8th at the Fairmont High School; Truman Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo Brochure to be held on March 28, 2015.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2015 at 5:15pm in the Board room (Martin County Courthouse).

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Clark to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Chris Pierce, President, MCEDA

Brent Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer