

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB)
BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION/RECRUITMENT (BRE/R) COMMITTEE
TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
March 16, 2007
EDC Board Room, Willmar

Present: Jay Bosch, Dean Bouta, Bill Jagow, Ron Nelson, Mike Nitchals, Steve Renquist, Dave Sisser and Jean Spaulding.

Excused: Ron Erpelding, Charles Oakes and Jeff Roiland

Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director

Secretarial: Jennifer Ebert, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Task Force chairperson, Jean Spaulding, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 a.m.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Jay Bosch, SECONDED BY Dean Bouta, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2007 meeting as mailed or e-mailed. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Get Broadband Update. The final business survey was e-mailed to the task force, which was reviewed and discussed. **Bosch, Spaulding** and **Jagow** will meet and refine the survey.

Discussion was held regarding the first draft of the community survey. Four hundred residential sector surveys will be taken. Spaulding went over items discussed in the meeting with Bill Coleman. One of the items was to ask the township of residence - Coleman suggested the task force sit down with area providers to discuss coverage area instead. Further discussion was held on asking township of residence as well as business location. This information would be very helpful and will be added to the survey by consensus of the task force. A list of township names will be provided to the company conducting the survey in case a resident needs assistance with the name of township. Dave Sisser suggested changing #2 to "I have limited experience working with computers" rather than "I don't know how to use a computer." Members agreed to eliminate #8 from the residential survey regarding internet provider. The same question will be removed from the business survey. The cost issue is more relevant than provider.

[Renquist joined the meeting.]

Spaulding reported that per Coleman, the task force has the flexibility of changing the survey. **Spaulding** will make the requested changes to both surveys and e-mail a final version to members and move forward. **Renquist** will prepare press releases to be posted in all area newspapers.

Willmar Ag Show Booth. Steve Renquist reported Rural Resources of St. Peter did not want the survey taken at the Ag Show. It wants their people to conduct all surveys. Suggestion was made to

use a similar survey for ag purposes and not combine the results, but compare them. This would be a 2008 spring project as the show was held March 13-14, 2007.

2007 Goals. This topic will continue to be on the agenda to keep goals close at hand and help stay on track.

Discussion on a plan of action for survey results will be held at next month's meeting. When the agenda is e-mailed next month, a link to the community portion of the **Get Broadband** site will be included for members to view what other communities have done with program funding and think about what can be done.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business,

IT WAS MOVED BY Jay Bosch, SECONDED BY Dean Bouta, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 a.m.
MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular task force meeting is **7:00 a.m., Friday, April 20, 2007**, at the EDC office.