

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
April 20, 2007
EDC Board Room, Willmar

Present: Bill Fenske, Ron Nelson, Mike Nitchals, Jeff Roiland and Dave Sisser
Excused: Dean Bouta, Ron Erpelding, Don McGrath, Jim Millard and Jean Spaulding
Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director
Secretarial: Jennifer Ebert, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Steve Renquist, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 a.m.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY MIKE NITCHALS, SECONDED BY DAVE SISSER, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2007, meeting as mailed or e-mailed. MOTION CARRIED.

2007 Goals—The task force discussed a meeting with service providers for mapping their service areas. Task force members are to email ideas on whom to invite to the EDC office at edp@kandiyohi.com. Who will contact the service providers will be determined once the invitees are decided. It was the consensus of the task force to hold the meeting after the survey results have been made available. Dave Sisser listed the following as sources to contact regarding what they offer and at what capacity:

Wireline Providers

En-Tel Communications
Qwest
Frontier
Hanson Communications
TDS
Sprint/Embarq (not sure if they have any coverage in the area)

Contact Person

Jeff Roiland
Gene South
unknown
Bruce Hanson
Ron Nelson
unknown

Wireless Ground Based

Clear Wire
Cloud Net
Bennett Office Technologies
MVTV
Charter Communications

Contact Person

Dave Sisser
Paul Weitzel
Dean Bouta
Dan Richter, Granite Falls
Jeff Tengwall

Wireless Terrestrial

Wild Blue
Dish Network

Contact Person

unknown
unknown

Cellular Providers/Carriers

Unicel
Midwest Wireless
Sprint
Verizon

Contact Person

unknown
unknown
unknown
unknown

Sisser suggested having Dean Bouta and Jeff Tengwall review the above lists in case someone was overlooked.

Discussion was held regarding how wide an area should be invited. Phone service providers would be a basic floor to start. Renquist asked the task force if they thought these companies would be willing to come to a meeting to share their coverage area? Roiland mentioned that Charter is deregulated so they would not have to show their coverage area and is not sure if they would share the information or not.

The question was asked whether there would be one big meeting with all providers invited, or if each provider would be met with on an individual basis. **Renquist** will ask Bill Coleman for his input on this topic. Jean Spaulding and Ron Erpelding will be asked for their input as well. One big meeting is Renquist's attraction as with numerous smaller meetings, it is too easy for things to be overlooked. The following was listed as a chain of events:

1. Share survey data among task force members;
2. Hold one provider meeting to discuss survey findings; and
3. Possibly one public meeting for further discussion.

Later would be a larger public meeting to reveal findings of survey, if necessary. Consensus of task force members present was that once survey results are available to them, dates for future meetings will be set. The survey results will be back within two weeks from the start of the survey. Renquist stated the EDC will cover the cost of followup meetings.

Sisser mentioned that whether or not this survey falls into the "do not call" requirements was discussed when task force members met with Coleman. **Renquist** will make sure this was resolved.

NEW BUSINESS—

Get Broadband. The costs of the survey will be paid for from grant dollars. **Renquist** will get the cost of the survey to determine the amount remaining.

Reports—

MinnWest Technology Campus. Renquist reminded the task force that any business or service club can request a tour of the MinnWest Technology Campus at any time. The campus continues to grow with local and non-local companies. Prinsco is moving its corporate offices in the near future. Feedlogic recently relocated to the campus. Representatives will be making a presentation to a company with 300 employees and are not sure how many would be moving to Kandiyohi County or to the campus. Boston Scientific in Minneapolis had a big layoff and is holding a job fair on May 17, at which the EDC will have a booth.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular task force meeting is **7:00 a.m., Friday, May 18, 2007**, at the EDC office.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 a.m.