

Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Joint Operations Board (OB)
AGRIBUSINESS/RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (AG) COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 17, 2007
EDC Office, Willmar

Present: Glenn Arfstrom, Jim Larson, Tom Meium, Bob Meyerson and Bruce Reuss

Excused Members: Don Boll, Ron Erpelding and Marc Knisely

Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director

Media: Gretchen Schlosser, West Central Tribune

Secretarial: Jodie Heuring, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Chair Bruce Reuss called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

AGENDA—Chair Reuss asked for changes to the agenda.

IT WAS MOVED BY Tom Meium, SECONDED BY Glenn Arfstrom to approve the agenda
as mailed or e-mailed. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES—By consensus, the minutes of the April 19, 2007 meeting as mailed or e-mailed were approved.

[The agenda was taken out of order.]

REPORTS—

Wind Energy Subcommittee. Bob Meyerson provided an update of Whirlwind Energy LLC. Meyerson stated that, to some extent, wind energy opportunities to some extent may be done because there are developer groups on the west and east of this county and it is believed they are progressing at a faster pace. It would be beneficial for someone in Kandiyohi County to build generators; members believe most of the production is currently overseas. Some discussion was held about the possible political changes and political tax credit relating to wind energy.

[Gretchen Schlosser joined the meeting.]

Meyerson also talked about a new concept of producing wind energy that does not use the traditional large circular blade type equipment. Zoning laws could affect potential wind energy sites.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—

2008 Budget Preview. Steve Renquist distributed copies of previous budget requests and a portion of last year's PowerPoint presentation given by this committee (see copy attached to the original minutes). Renquist reported last year's chair Wade Gustafson, this year's chair Bruce Reuss and Renquist met to develop a draft budget for this committee (see copy attached to the original minutes). Renquist has alerted the EDC Joint Powers Board and EDCOB that it will be this committee's expectations to avoid last year's incident in getting a consultant paid and hire a part-time employee without benefits. Renquist noted budgeted dollars for program administration includes LAA's time, an office (if need is determined), grant seeking and other program support activities.

[Jim Larson joined the meeting.]

Renquist is meeting with one of the individuals interviewed for the contract position last year to discuss possible part-time employment together with the work program plans and expectations of the committee. Renquist has offered \$30 per hour with no benefits. One of the tasks of the part-time employee may be to invite new people to join this committee, who have different perspectives and new ideas.

IT WAS MOVED BY Bob Meyerson, seconded by Tom Meium to approve the draft 2008 budget as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Renquist reported additions to goals, objectives and strategy include:

- ▶ invite the Willmar city administrator, city engineer, mayor and one council member to tour the methane digester plant in DuPage County, Illinois.
- ▶ Host a presentation by Dr. Phil Goodrich relating to his methane digester study and invite the City of Willmar to attend; the invitation has been extended, however, a response has not been received.
- ▶ Address biosecurity issues.
- ▶ Work on a crushing plant for soybeans.
- ▶ Continue to organize agricultural educational opportunities for the community, including the Strategic Animal Ag Conference. This committee has participated in the *Get Broadband* survey.
- ▶ Continue soliciting renewable energy businesses.

Renquist suggested Chair Reuss review subcommittee activity. It is important that there is someone who has a vision and a subcommittee may grow from that vision.

Committee Member Status Policy. Renquist sent a memorandum to committee members who have missed three or more consecutive meetings without any contact inquiring of their continued interest.

There was no other unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS—

Ag Terrorism Food Security. No report.

IT WAS MOVED BY Glenn Arfstrom, SECONDED BY Tom Meium to direct Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. to contact Jim Molenaar to discuss how he would like to present information about ag terrorism food security to this committee, i.e., email followed by a formal

presentation or email with option for questions or concerns at a future meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Skyline Display Demonstration. Renquist described the new display purchased by the EDC to be used for various EDC functions and committee activities. The display has been packed to be used for a program today; thus, Renquist will show the display at a future meeting.

[Renquist was excused from the meeting due to a prior commitment.]

Other. Chair Reuss asked committee members to provide him with ideas of potential new committee members with new energy.

There was no other new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—June 28, 5:30 p.m., Committee presentations to Joint Powers Board and Joint Operations Board for 2008 budget process, Holiday Inn/Willmar Conference Center

NEXT REGULAR MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **7:30 a.m., Thursday, June 21, 2007**, at the EDC Office, 312 Fourth Street SW, Willmar.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business,

IT WAS MOVED BY Tom Meium, SECONDED BY Glenn Arfstrom to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.