

**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
June 15, 2007
EDC Board Room, Willmar**

Present: Jay Bosch, Dean Bouta, Jean Spaulding and Jeff Tengwall

Excused: Ron Erpelding, Bill Jagow, Charles Oakes, Jeff Roiland and Dave Sisser

Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director

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

CALL TO ORDER—Task Force chairperson, Jean Spaulding, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 a.m.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Jay Bosch, SECONDED BY Dean Bouta, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2007 meeting with the following correction: Jeff Tengwall asked that an addition be made to his comments regarding the Wireless Terrestrial. This service is great for basic web browsing, but not functional for VPN purposes. The service is also comparatively expensive relative to the speed received. MOTION CARRIED.

2007 GOALS—

Meeting with Service Providers for mapping service area—Spaulding circulated maps she received during a visit to the Verizon outlet. Color copies will be made of these maps to share at the next monthly meeting

Jeff Tengwall shared the information he obtained from Wild Blue. Wild Blue services are available basically anywhere, the speed is different dependent on location. There are three packages available, the fastest being 1.5m down and 256k up. A copy of the comparison chart was provided and is attached to the original minutes.

Dean Bouta's assignment was Frontier. He found that this provider does not have much coverage in this area. Bouta also checked into Cloud Net. Service can be provided with DSL through Qwest, but is difficult in town. All providers would have difficulty providing service in all areas.

Jay Bosch mentioned it is confusing to think of Wireless Terrestrial as a satellite due to the meaning of terrestrial. Consensus was to correct the area labeled "Wireless Terrestrial" to "Wireless Satellite."

Discussion was held on gathering maps from other providers to determine which ones to meet with depending on which providers cover which locations. The task of assigning members to different providers to collect specific coverage data for the task force will be addressed at the next regular monthly meeting. Once the data is collected, the task force could meet to compare maps. Spaulding asked **Renquist** to contact Kandiyohi County to arrange for Bonnema Surveys to meet with the task force as well.

Get Broadband—

Survey results—Copies of the survey results were provided and are attached to the original minutes. Spaulding wonders if this task force could acquire the raw data that was compiled as well as the overview that has already been received on the survey. Good information was provided with these results. Small businesses are the ones that need to be helped. Renquist stated the Ag Committee has put some money into this project and is seeking information or training that will be valuable to our ag sector.

The following suggestions were made to possibly draw more users:

- Possibly offer high speed access to dial-up users at no cost for a short trial period.
- May be a good idea to set up a kiosk with a computer or two at a large traffic area such as the Kandi Mall to show passersby the benefits of high speed versus dial-up.

Educational opportunities—Tengwall stated the largest issue being dealt with is education.

University of Minnesota Extension Service—Bouta researched the University of Minnesota Extension Service and reported it appears they offer training programs with a number of different categories, including site provided training materials and opportunities to train trainers. He tried to contact them to ask if they have people to send out and has not received a response, but will keep working on it.

Blandin Foundation—Spaulding reported Jim Millard's findings in his absence. The programs that are listed on Blandin's web site are the ones that are endorsed and supported by the Blandin Foundation. The programs are available through links on the web.

Nonprofit corporation—Tengwall shared information he collected from eBusiness Institute. The three levels of executive overviews that are of importance are:

1. Website development
2. How to use search engines
3. Marketing and how marketing meets technology

The cost is \$500.00 per delivery of the program. This has been funded by Blandin in the past.

The assignments for each Task Force member for the next meeting are as follows:

1. **Review the survey results in detail and bring a list of priorities for areas to focus energies for educational programs.**
2. **Bring any maps collected with provider service areas.**

REPORTS—

Minnwest Technology Campus—Renquist will report on this at the next regular task force meeting.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **7:00 to 8:00 a.m., July 20, 2007** at the EDC Office.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:55 a.m.