

Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Joint Operations Board (OB)
AGRICULTURE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (AG) COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 19, 2008
EDC Office, Willmar

Present: Gordon Behm, Ron Erpelding, Jim Larson, Bob Meyerson, Bruce Reuss, Milan Schmiesing and Stan Simon

Guest: Larry Konsterlie

Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director and Wade Gustafson, Agriculture Specialist

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

Chair Bruce Reuss called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 a.m.

AGENDA—Chair Reuss asked for changes to the agenda.

IT WAS MOVED BY Ron Erpelding, SECONDED BY Bob Meyerson, to approve the agenda with the addition of International Bioenergy Days September 28-October 3, 2008. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Bob Meyerson, SECONDED BY Ron Erpelding, to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2008 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES/ACTION PLAN

a. **Research renewable energy opportunities to sustain and contain costs.** Jim Larson stated a draft outline with general content was created for the website. The proposed website is modeled after the Northern Renewable Energy website. A website designer suggested to integrate the committee's content into the EDC website, which would be done quicker and would describe Kandiyohi County's efforts for renewable energy. Larson suggested linking current government websites from the EDC website. Wade Gustafson stated he received bids from Jim Millard of Plum Hollow at \$1,700 and Summerset Studios at \$2,500 to create a website and make regular updates. Gustafson suggested the committee use LAA to create a webpage to be added to the EDC website. Steve Renquist stated LAA's rate for creating a webpage is about \$50 per hour. Reuss stated the content would stay the same as either a separate website or a webpage of the EDC website. Larson stated renewable energy office is still desirable. Renquist stated he spoke with Diane Buzzeo of Marketing Concepts, who is willing to work with marketing of the website using key words in searches. **Renquist** will suggest to Marketing Concepts to help on a pro bono rate or acquire a bid. Larson stated the website will contain the vision of renewable energy, describe types of renewable energy (wind, soil, ethanol, solar, etc.), list current private and public projects, for example, Whirlwind Energy, which would list Bob Meyerson's contact information allowing viewers to contact him directly. Larson stated the commercialization content is already on the EDC website and needs to be

reworded. Renquist suggested the committee make the website focus on commercialization of renewable energy and a place to help bring it to market and not focus on education.

IT WAS MOVED BY Jim Larson, SECONDED BY Milan Schmiesing, to integrate the Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development Committee's website into the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission's website. MOTION CARRIED.

Gustafson introduced Larry Konsterlie with the Corn Growers Association, who was invited to attend the meeting, followed by self introductions.

b. **Position Kandiyohi County to turn wind energy into anhydrous ammonia as a way to store energy.** Reuss stated one goal is to create a steering committee with the first task of finding what equipment cost is for creating anhydrous ammonia. Gustafson stated the sign up sheet for today's meeting with Mike Reese allows attendees to check if they want to be a part of the steering committee. Reuss stated LAA would help the committee with reports, research, gathering information and taking minutes. Anhydrous ammonia will be discussed later this morning with Reese.

c. **Explore development of a soybean collection or processing facility.** Gustafson reported there has been no change since the last meeting and he will continue to check on it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—

Strategic Animal Ag Conference. Gustafson stated it will be held the full day of Friday, January 16, 2009 at the Holiday Inn/Willmar Conference Center. Curt Zimmerman and Rob Sip will hold a pre-seminar on the evening of Thursday, January 15, 2009 possibly at the MinnWest Technology Campus (MWTC).

Renville County Economic Development meeting. Renquist stated Renville County would like to have a joint meeting with the Ag Committee; dates have not been decided. Renquist suggested the committee discuss with Renville County a cattle operation that could come to Kandiyohi County. **Renquist** will get more information from Renville County and report back to the committee.

2009 budget. Renquist reported the 2009 budget was presented to the Joint Powers Board and the OB last night. The same amount was requested as last year.

There was no other unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS—

International Bioenergy Days. Renquist stated the committee would do a presentation at lunch followed by a tour. Meyerson suggested the committee feed the tour group very well. Renquist distributed a pamphlet on International Bioenergy Days (see copy attached to original minutes). Renquist attended a presentation at the MWTC and was asked if the Ag Committee would be a sponsor. Renquist stated being a sponsor would be a part of the committee's fourth goal. Renquist stated he has been pursuing the Sweden company for the past year and it is now considering a location in the United States in either Georgia or Minnesota. Renquist suggested the committee and MWTC split the platinum sponsorship level of \$25,000. Renquist

stated payment of \$12,500 was approved by the Joint Powers Board and the OB at last night's meeting contingent upon the Ag Committee's approval. Renquist reported the Ag Committee has funding left in its budget to sustain the sponsorship, continue to have an ag employee and conduct other projects.

IT WAS MOVED BY Ron Erpelding, SECONDED BY Bob Meyerson, to pay one-half of the platinum sponsorship at the rate of \$12,500 for the International Bioenergy Days contingent upon MinnWest Technology Campus paying the other half.
MOTION CARRIED.

{Gordy Behm Joined the meeting.}

Reuss introduced Gordy Behm, who is a board member of the EDCOB and now also on the Ag Committee, followed by self introductions.

Renquist will put together speakers and ask the Marketing and Public Relations Committee to help market and create a booth for the display for the International Bioenergy Days. Renquist stated he expects 100 people to tour this area with a stop at the MWTC.

REPORTS—

Ag Specialist. Gustafson reported he is continuing to work on the Strategic Animal Conference.

Wind Energy subcommittee. Meyerson reported an MET tower was put up and information will need to be swapped out monthly. Stearns County requested permission to reproduce our wind energy booklet.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **7:30 a.m., Thursday, July 17, 2008 at the EDC Office, Willmar.**

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business,

IT WAS MOVED BY Jim Larson SECONDED BY Stan Simon to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 a.m.