

**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 8, 2006
EDC Board Room, Willmar**

Present: Teri Beyer, Dean Bouta, Ron Erpelding, Bill Jagow, Charlie Oaks, Mike Nitchals, Jeff Roiland, and Jean Spaulding

Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director

Secretarial: Karen Carlson, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Staff, Steve Renquist called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 a.m.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Dean Bouta, SECONDED BY Charlie Oakes, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2006 meeting as mailed or e-mailed. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[Jean Spaulding joined the meeting.]

2006 Goals. Nitchals inquired whether or not this task force has a mission statement. Renquist stated the task force does not have its own mission statement but follows the mission statement of the EDC. With that in mind the task force went through the proposed 2006 goals. Revisions were made and the new proposed goals are attached.

Greater Minnesota Technology Showcase. Renquist gave an update on the Greater Minnesota Technology Showcase. To accomplish the kind of event they want, the showcase committee has agreed to send out a request for proposal (rfp) to 20 professional convention organizers. One of the proposed themes for the event is, "Off shore your company without leaving the state." The proposed event site will be the MinnWest Technology campus and will high light the city of Willmar, Kandiyohi County, and all of greater Minnesota. Hats off to Jay Bosch for his leadership in the planning of this event. Roiland gave two recommendations for guest speakers. One is Randy Young of the Minnesota Association for Rural Telecommunications. A second is Mike Nowick of the Minnesota Telecommunications Alliance. **Renquist** will get contact information from Roiland. Another possible presenter is Tom Friedman, author of "The World is Flat." The proposed event dates are June 19-21 which will co-inside with Willmar Fest, a great time to show the vitality of the community spirit in the area. **Bosch** will contact Friedman.

Detroit Lakes Technology Campus. Renquist has been unable to gather any information from Detroit Lakes as of this meeting. **Renquist** will contact Marie Ostby for additional information.

NEW BUSINESS

Paperweight. The “You Make a Difference” paperweight was distributed to those who were unable to attend the Appreciation & Awards Reception in May.

Joint Committee/Task Force/Board Meeting. Renquist reported the committee chairs will make their 2007 budget requests to the EDC’s boards at a meeting to be held June 29 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Willmar Conference Center. Task force members are invited to attend, but are not required. Task force members must RSVP so a box lunch can be ordered, if they wish to attend.

MinnWest Technology Campus. A swine feeding company from the state of Washington has tentatively agreed to locate their business in the MinnWest Technology Campus. This is a very important first step in the development of the campus as this is the first out of state company to locate here. They initially were in discussions with cities in Iowa, but after hearing what PALS, Novatech, and the new Quazar Venture Capital Fund has to offer, they are interested in locating in Willmar.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 a.m.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **7:00 to 8:00 a.m., Thursday, July 13, 2006**, at the EDC Office, Willmar.

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2006 Proposed Goals

(As revised at the June 8, 2006 meeting.)

1. Assess needs and access opportunities for technology-based industry recruitment and expansion.
2. Identify and share with elected officials the necessary technological infrastructure to be included in new construction, repairs and improvements to state highways, county roads and city streets, especially in the area of the new Willmar industrial park.
3. Identify the possibility of using sales tax funds for technology infrastructure at the new Willmar industrial park.
4. Identify and implement ways to support entrepreneurial efforts in technology by individuals and companies.
5. Identify and implement ways to attract, retain and support technologically-based educational offerings.
6. Identify locations in the area that have and do not have high speed internet capability including redundancy and cellular telephone service.
7. Communicate to prospective businesses the technology services that are available and attempt to have those services provided to all areas of the county.
8. Encourage businesses to complete a technological needs assessment of the services provided by their current provider and to do a comparison with alternative providers.

Action Items:

1. Support Technology Showcase Task Force efforts to host the Greater Minnesota Technology Showcase June 19-21, 2007.