

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
AGRICULTURE & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (Ag) COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**

**July 16, 2020**

**Teleconference**

Present: Rollie Boll, Ian Graue, Kevin Halvorson, Christy Kallevig, Dustin Kotrba, Kim Larson, Michelle Marotzke and Keith Poier

Absent: Larry Konsterlie, Dan Lippert and Dan Tepfer

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Manager

Secretarial: Diane Beck, Legal and Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Chairperson Kevin Halvorson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:32 a.m. and declared a quorum was present.

**AGENDA**—Due to the conflict with the Zoom meeting today, Christy Kallevig will present the New Business items: a. Program and b. Trip Cambodia at the next Ag Committee meeting.

**MINUTES**—

IT WAS MOVED BY Keith Poier, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to approve the June 18, 2020, Minutes as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

**REPORTS**

**Industrial Hemp Exploratory Subcommittee.** Schmoll reported the subcommittee did not meet in June but continue to research and market the area for an industrial hemp processing facility. Schmoll shared there is a possibility Tim Seehusen of Prairie PROducers may conduct a tour of their hemp operation in Olivia in lieu of a presentation at the August meeting. Schmoll noted the tour may be the first part of August but will keep committee members informed. Poier reiterated the hemp conference scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled and may be rescheduled to March 2021. No details about the conference have been posted.

**Ag Marketing and Event Planning Subcommittee.** Dustin Kotrba provided an update on the Partners in Ag Innovation Conference scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> via virtual live stream at MinnWest Technology Campus. Currently, registrations are at 160 which is an increase from the 2019 conference. Schmoll shared she attended a meeting at the MinnWest Technology Campus to test the technology for the live stream event. All speakers, except the keynote speaker, will be onsite. Schmoll noted more registrations from ag producers are needed and encouraged committee members to invite at least one ag producer to the conference. The registration link is: <http://partnersinag.com>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Community Ag/Renewable Energy Community Events/Projects.** Schmoll inquired how the crops are doing. Committee members shared more rain would be beneficial and that rain is badly needed in the Madison area. Boll commented on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPE) lending program and feels there may be some funds available. Kotrba stated it has been an excellent program especially for farmers. He gave an update on the various agriculture loan programs, i.e., Economic Disaster Program, Main Street Lending Program, and Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) which is the most familiar program. Schmoll noted AURI will hold an event in August and will share details in the near future. Schmoll reported the EDC is working with a company interested in locating to Willmar and purchasing the former elevator building on north Highway 71, if the cost is reduced. The EDC is working with Simply Shrimp on final expansion project plans and completion of the Minnesota Investment Fund application. Schmoll reported Lettuce Abound is no longer growing lettuce but is growing hemp for seed. Schmoll will contact the company to ask if a tour can be conducted in the future and will share additional information at the August meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT—**

IT WAS MOVED BY Ian Graue, SECONDED BY Keith Poier, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING—**The next committee meeting is **7:30 a.m., August 20, 2020** via Zoom or at Christianson PLLP, 302 Fifth Street SW, Willmar.