

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

MINUTES

June 15, 2017

Christensen PLLP, Willmar

Present: Rollie Boll, Kevin Halvorson, Kim Larson, Dan Lippert and Dan Tepfer

Excused: Ian Graue, Dustin Kotrba, Keith Poier and Bruce Reuss

Absent: Arvind Auluck Wilson, John Duevel, Jon Folkedahl and Larry Konsterlie

Guests: John Strohfus, Minnesota Hemp Farms; Scott Tersteeg of Tersteeg Farms, Olivia and Carolyn Lange, West Central Tribune

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Specialist

Secretarial: Diane Beck, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc.

Chairperson Dan Tepfer called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

AGENDA— Chair Tepfer added to the for Connie Schmoll to show photos of a recent business visits.

Schmoll shared photos of recent business visits to West Central Bait and Fisheries in New London, specifically the new business of raising salt water shrimp, and to West Central Outreach Center in Morris.

MINUTES—As there was not a quorum in attendance, the April 20, 2017 minutes were received but not approved.

PRESENTATION: MINNESOTA HEMP FARMS, INC. Kim Larson introduced John Strohfus, President of Minnesota Hemp Farms, Inc., Hastings, MN and Scott Tersteeg of Tersteeg Farms, LLC, Olivia, MN. Strohfus formed his company in September 2016. He provided background information for industrial hemp farming, as well as his hemp farming process. Their brand, “Field Theory” was created in October 2016 and introduced the first food product “Hulled Hemp Hearts” in January 2017, with additional products coming on the market in the future. Strohfus stated it is a challenge to educate the public on industrial hemp and the food and other products that can be made from the seed and straw portions of the hemp plant. The hemp percentage in food products is .3%, which is considerably less than cannabis. Strohfus shared they are currently working on a partnership with Scott and Roger Tersteeg of Olivia to grow and process the seed and food products. Scott Tersteeg gave an overview of their organic hemp farming and commented industrial hemp is a comparable crop to grain. Strohfus reported they are also working with Kay’s Processing in Clara City for co-packing dry goods for retail. Strohfus mentioned there are grant programs available to aide in the industrial hemp industry and highlighted potential marketing funding options: 1) public awareness to promote uses of hemp and that hemp is not

Marijuana but a nutritional food; 2) promotion or incentives for other businesses to incorporate the use of hemp in other products (food or industrial); and 3) Farm to School Program sponsorship.

REPORTS

West Central Angel Fund I. Schmoll reported there is a draft application available; however, it is not posted online. She also reported no businesses have been funded yet.

Ag Marketing Subcommittee. Schmoll reported an Agriculture flyer has been developed and is currently at the printers. She will share the flyer at the next Ag Committee meeting.

Ag BRE Projects: Ag BRE Summary document. Schmoll prepared and shared a four-page summary of the Ag BRE Report. The committee reviewed the report. Schmoll will bring this report to the Ag Marketing Subcommittee to assess if further reductions are needed.

Ag BRE Projects: Property tax issue. The property tax issue will be discussed at the next meeting. document.

Ag BRE Projects: Responding to agriculture issues/Natasha Mortenson presentation. Schmoll reminded committee members of the Speak for Agriculture Workshop scheduled for noon, Monday, June 19, at Kandi Power Cooperative in Spicer. Rollie Boll mentioned the Eventbrite invitation system is complicated. Schmoll will email the workshop flyer to invitees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CTC Broadband update. Schmoll reported residents continue to sign up, but the number of required sign-ups has not yet been reached. She commented there was confusion regarding the \$25 deposit. The Broadband and Advanced Technology Committee has been diligent going door-to-door obtaining sign-ups. The deadline for sign-ups is July 1, 2017; an extension has been requested. Kevin Konsterlie inquired if it is possible to partner with another company if CTC doesn't receive the required number of sign-ups. Schmoll mentioned Federated Telephone Cooperative may be a possibility in the future.

AGRICULTURE/RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY EVENTS/PROJECTS. Schmoll mentioned the grand opening of 1,000 Degrees Neapolitan Pizza in Willmar. Schmoll shared a meeting was held with DryMAX Solutions of Dassel and various local grain elevators. The DryMAX operation removes moisture from grain products using radio waves, low energy and low heat. Three grain elevator managers from the region have expressed interest in hosting a testing unit at their elevators.

ADJOURNMENT— There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular meeting is **7:30 a.m., Thursday, July 20, 2017**, at Christianson PLLP, 302 Fifth Street SW, Willmar.