

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

**MINUTES**

**September 17, 2015**

**Christianson & Associates, PLLP, Willmar**

Present: Rollie Boll, Dustin Kotrba, Larry Konsterlie, Dan Lippert, Dan Tepfer and Donnell Williamson

Excused: Arvind Auluck-Wilson, John Duevel, Jon Folkedahl, Ian Graue, Kevin Halvorson, Keith Poier and Bruce Reuss

Staff: Steve Renquist, Executive Director and Connie Schmoll, Business Development Specialist

Steve Renquist called the meeting to order at approximately 7:42 a.m. and announced a quorum was not present.

**MINUTES**—The minutes were received for information only.

**REPORTS**

**Ag Investment Subcommittee.** Dan Tepfer stated the Ag Investment Subcommittee welcomed guest speaker Bruce Behm, who is very supportive of the EDC's efforts to form an Ag investment group and fund. The next Ag Investment Subcommittee meeting is at 12 noon on October 3, 2015. An agenda has not yet been put together as no business meeting was held during the meeting with the guest speaker in September.

**BRE Survey Subcommittee.** The minutes of the September 9, 2015 subcommittee meeting were reviewed. Jim Molenaar has indicated he will help in the organizing effort. The subcommittee will meet again when harvest is completed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Community survey for Ag investment.** Connie Schmoll asked if a better assessment of the community is needed to determine if we indeed are able to create a \$5 to \$10 million fund. The possible outcomes of a survey would be to 1) know if the community is ready for a fund—are there projects in the pipeline that need funding, and 2) inform possible investors and get them involved. Renquist suggested we invite 20-25 prospective investors and they can tell us, rather than a community assessment—take a community leadership approach.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PACE Program.** Schmoll reported she has been in conversation with Peter Lindstrom concerning the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, an option for financing clean energy projects. The program uses property taxes as a means to pay back financing. There are programs in southwest Minnesota and clean energy projects have taken root and spread quickly in the area, many of them utilizing PACE financing. The St. Paul Port Authority has options for people in our area and would work with us to establish a local program. Lindstrom could come and present on the PACE Program and local options at the committee's November meeting. Committee members agreed to invite him to the next meeting.

**Upcoming events.** Schmoll informed the committee of the upcoming Hack20 event, the 1<sup>st</sup> Light presentation by EOS, which will be returning to Willmar in the near future and the downtown Walk the Corridor tour by the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:48 am.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next regular meeting is **7:30 a.m., Thursday, November 19, 2015**, at Christianson & Associates, PLLP, Willmar.