

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB) MEETING
MINUTES
October 10, 2013
EDC Office, Willmar**

Present: Rollie Boll, Beverly Dougherty, Gary Gilman and Rick Nordin

Ex Officio: Jim Butterfield and Bruce Peterson

Excused: Robert Carlson, Robert Enos and Milan Schmiesing

Staff: Steven Renquist, Executive Director and Jean Spaulding, Assistant Director

Media: Anne Polta, West Central Tribune

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

President Bev Dougherty called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA—The president added item 5 to the Consent Agenda under Approve, “Adding Wally Nelson to the Ag Committee.”

IT WAS MOVED BY Rick Nordin, SECONDED BY Gary Gilman, to approve the Agenda and revised Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA—

- Approve:
1. Minutes of July 11, as corrected, and August 8 and September 12, 2013 board meetings;
 2. Financial reports as of August 31 and September 30, 2013, subject to audit;
 3. Payment of Invoice No. kced0413 from REDstar Creative in the amount of \$1,243.75 from the Marketing and Public Relations Committee’s budget;
 4. Resignation of Bob Meyerson from the Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development (Ag) Committee and Art Norby from the Business Retention and Expansion/Recruitment Committee; and
 5. Adding Wally Nelson to the Ag Committee.
- Accept:
1. Committee minutes:
 - a. Ag 8/15/2013
 - b. BRE/R 8/7/2013
 - c. Finance 6/11/2013
 - d. Leisure Travel 6/3/2013
 - e. Marketing and Public Relations 7/22/2013

PROGRESS REPORTS

Willmar. Bruce Peterson reported he and Steve Renquist met and came up with proposals to submit to the Willmar Community Development Committee next week concerning industrial park land pricing. They suggest reducing the price of the land to \$1.25 per square foot and

developed a write down proposal that would give a credit of \$10,000 for every permanent, full-time job and \$25,000 for every \$1 million of estimated market value in the project. Peterson indicated the property was obtained through aviation grants and has been paid for; the infrastructure is being paid by sales tax dollars and rather than the city of Willmar making money and competing with the private sector, they are recommending these changes to generate an increase in payroll and tax benefits. Peterson reported the cul de sac in the industrial park is nearing completion and the trail project deadline has been extended to November 15 in hopes of being completed this year.

EDC/MinnWest Technology Campus. Renquist reported on the September 30 University of Minnesota (U of M) Office for Technology Commercialization ag technology innovation showcase and the joint networking reception that evening, both of which were a success. Jean Spaulding noted the EDC recruited a number of business representatives to attend the U of M's ag technology innovation showcase and the U of M was pleased with the attendance. Spaulding reported on the October 1 Animal Science Conference held at the MinnWest Technology Campus (MWTC), which had excellent speakers and was very well attended.

Willmar Area Multicultural Business Center (WAM-BC). Spaulding reported WAM-BC will be applying for several grants and recently received a \$25,000 grant. WAM-BC has a small revolving loan fund created through a federal grant; it will be reviewing a few applications soon and it recently had three new businesses it worked with for business consulting. WAM-BC is working on ownership of the building it currently rents. Dougherty commented a lot of work is done at WAM-BC.

Willmar Design Center (WDC). Dougherty reported Becker Market just completed its eighth year; the WDC is restoring the greenhouse at MWTC; a historian recently did a downtown Willmar tour and he believes there are a large number of buildings that could create a historic district; the tour was filmed and will be available on WRAC; plans are to get the district named to the national historic registry by the end of 2014; the WDC was pleased with the feasibility study; Holiday is November 23 and will include a parade, family activities and a comedy show at the Barn Theatre; WDC was one of the 2013 Minnesota Preservation Award winners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—

Office lease. Spaulding presented information on a number of locations available to the EDC to lease (see copy attached). Renquist noted the EDC's current location has been adequate, but there is a temperature control issue the landlord has indicated he will correct, if the EDC signs a new lease. Spaulding informed the board of the leasehold improvements the EDC made to its current location. Board members spoke in favor of and against remaining in downtown Willmar. Renquist recommended the EDC stay in its current location for another 15 to 18 months. Spaulding recommended the EDC remain in its current location for at least one year as another location may be available in the future that would fit the EDC's mission better. Renquist informed the board the city of Spicer offered a satellite office in its city offices at no cost.

IT WAS MOVED BY Gary Gilman, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, that the Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission request a one-year extension of its lease with Centre Place Associates from November 1, 2013. MOTION CARRIED.

Annual Planning Session. Renquist stated the boards' annual planning session is set for October 29, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Oaks in Willmar. Scott Marquardt of

Southwest Initiative Foundation has agreed to facilitate the planning session at no cost. Board members were asked to complete the Survey Monkey as soon as possible. Board members requested a format similar to last year's survey be done instead of the one they received. Staff will look into this.

NEW BUSINESS—

2013 budget. Renquist presented recommendations to move monies within line items on the EDC's 2013 budget.

IT WAS MOVED BY Rollie Boll, SECONDED BY Rick Nordin, to move \$5,000 from Countywide Business Development and \$2,500 from other operating expenses to Economic Development Community Contributions and specify \$4,000 of the Business Retention and Expansion/Recruitment's budget is for the Technology Advisory Committee website development grants line in the Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission's 2013 budget. MOTION CARRIED.

Community Venture Network. Spaulding distributed information on Community Venture Network (CVN) (see attached) and proposed the EDC join the CVN for one year in partnership with MWTC. The total membership fee is \$4,250, which would be split \$2,125 by the EDC and MWTC. Membership in CVN would give access to 24 companies a year that are looking to locate in a rural community. The companies are typically not traditional start-up companies, but are generally in growth mode and looking for capital. Spaulding gave an example of a Clear Lake, Iowa, company that is seeking to relocate possibly to MWTC. Seven Minnesota communities, along with communities from Wisconsin and Iowa participate in CVN.

[Jim Butterfield was excused from the meeting.]

IT WAS MOVED BY Rick Nordin, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to approve payment of \$2,125 for a membership in Community Venture Network, along with MinnWest Technology Campus. MOTION CARRIED.

[Bruce Peterson was excused from the meeting.]

Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development Specialist position. Renquist informed the board that Leroy Petersen resigned from his position and is no longer employed by the EDC. Before leaving, Petersen provided the October Projects Status Review 2013 (see attached). Renquist recommends the position be refilled as a full-time position and that a search subcommittee consisting of Bruce Reuss, Milan Schmiesing and Renquist move forward as soon as possible. Dougherty conducted an exit interview with Petersen and any board members who would like to hear the results of the exit interview should contact Dougherty. Renquist recommends the subcommittee discuss the position's salary and bring a recommendation to the EDCOB at its November meeting and the position be filled on or before January 1, 2014.

IT WAS MOVED BY Rick Nordin, SECONDED BY Gary Gilman, to move forward with filling the Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission's Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development Specialist position. MOTION CARRIED.

Rollie Boll offered to also serve on the search subcommittee.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS—

Ag. Boll noted the Projects Status Review provided by Petersen is pending, along with the need for a new committee chair in January 2014.

BRE/R. Dougherty reported the business survey is moving forward and committee members will be attending a U of M Extension Business Retention and Expansion Techniques workshop on conducting community surveys.

Finance. Rick Nordin informed the board that the Finance Committee approved a request to extend a loan and received updates on all of its outstanding loans, all of which are current. Spaulding provided information on the loan extension.

IT WAS MOVED BY Rick Nordin, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to approve extending the Revolving Loan Fund loan with Feedlogic Corporation to December 31, 2014, maintaining the same interest rate, providing a new amortization schedule and, if there are any outside costs involved in the extension, Feedlogic Corporation will be responsible for those costs. MOTION CARRIED.

Marketing and Public Relations. Spaulding noted the committee is looking at updating the EDC's website, redoing the newspaper insert and is waiting for the conclusion of Vision 2040 to continue some of its projects.

Other. Nordin recommended that if a quorum of this board is not available for a meeting, the meeting be cancelled to accommodate others.

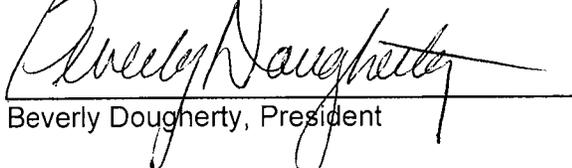
NEXT MEETING—The next regular board meeting is **11:00 a.m., Thursday, November 14, 2013**, at the EDC board room.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.



Rick Nordin, Secretary

APPROVED: 11/14/2013:



Beverly Dougherty, President

EDC Office Space Proposals

									Dedicated Ethernet Data Ports and Phone Jacks
Location	Square Feet	Monthly Lease Rate	Term	No. of Separate Rooms	Utilities /CAM	Garbage	Parking	Snow Removal	
Centre Place (current location)	approx. 1,600	\$2,113.40	5 years	7	Included	EDC arranged and pays separate	3 included; 1 extra at \$35/mo.	Landlord bills EDC for 3/18 (17%)	Yes, EDC remodeled space and wired to fit
				Reception, Executive Assistant Director, Ag Specialist/SCORE, work room (printer/copier and server), storage room, board room with kitchenette					
Cleary's Building 2630 First Street S (previously Alltel)	1,250	\$1,615.00		Front area open with 1,250 sq. feet or 1,250 of sq. ft. of office space	Utilitites not included		Included	Included	
		\$15.50 sq. ft. includes CAM		Minimal build out. Space could be shared					
Fortmann's Building Lakeland Drive (previously Curves)	2,750	\$2,750.00		Reasonable build out	Included	Included	Included	Included	
Hansen Advertising Hwy. 23/71 log cabin bldg. (previously R & J Tours)	1,500	\$1,750-\$2,000		All finished with North woods feel	Included	Included	Included	Included	
		Base rate \$10 sq. ft. w/CAM							

EDC Office Space Proposals

Kandi-Plaza 1415 First Street South (near Herbergers-- previously PRO1)	1,435	\$1,811.67		Suite					
		\$11 sq. ft. + \$4.15 and CAM							
LaPoint Building North Hwy. 23/71	2,200	\$2,500.00		Three large private offices. Large training/conference room	Included	Included	Included	Included	
				Little or no build out; some decorating updates					
Lincoln Clements	approx. 1,600	\$1,697.33	6 years	Open space to be remodeled		Garbage location would be created	Included	Snow removal, lawn care, property tax and insurance included	
		Base \$6.95 + remodel \$5.78 sq. ft. = \$12.73 sq. ft.		Remodel cost approx. \$30 sq. ft. Any cost above \$30 would be paid by EDC					
Lindemann/Pro 1 Realty North Hwy. 71/23	approx. 2,615	\$1,435.83	2-year	9	Tenants expense	Included	Included	Snow removal, lawn care, real estate taxes, bldg. insurance included	Can be modified to meet EDC requirements
		\$4.60 sq. ft. (Base = \$1,000 +CAM @ \$2=\$435/mo.)	w/option to renew 90 days prior to lease expiration	Reception, Executive Director, 2- 3 staff offices, work area (could be implemented in reception area), storage area, board room and kitchenette			12-15 vehicles; asphalt		

EDC Office Space Proposals

MinnWest Technology Campus--Option 1	807	\$874.25	1-5 years	2nd floor with elevator; 5 individual offices with common hallway	Prorated on actual leased space	Included	2 shared lots available	Snow removal and lawn care included in CAM charge	Yes
		\$13 sq. ft. (base \$10 + \$3 CAM). Base lease adjusted annually at 5%							
MinnWest Technology Campus--Option 2	2,398	\$2,597.83	1-5 years	Main floor; 9 individual rooms with common hallway	Prorated on actual leased space	Included	2 shared lots available	Snow removal and lawn care included in CAM charge	Yes
		\$13 sq. ft. (base \$10 + \$3 CAM). Base lease adjusted annually at 5%							
MinnWest Technology Campus--Option 3	MWTC is currently renovating a cottage that could have build-to-suit options for the EDC and would be available 2/1/2014 with the same lease rate and terms as the other two locations								
Overhead Door East Hwy. 12 (previously Swenson Bldg.)	4,000	\$3,200.00	Prefer 3-5 years; negotiable	Would require build-out for offices and conference rooms	Included	Included	20 shared spaces; current tenants utilize approx. 1/3 of existing spaces	Included	
		Base + taxes and CAM		Build out necessary	Included	Included	Included	Included	
Plaza North First Street east of Taco John's	approx. 1,400	\$1,600.00			Included	Included	Included	Included	
		Base \$12 sq. ft. +3.25 CAM							

EDC Office Space Proposals

Skylark Mall	approx. 2,000-2,500	\$2,250-\$3,000		Some remodeling	Included	Included	Included		
		Base \$9-12 sq. ft. + CAM \$4-\$5 Taxes and Insurance							
Tiffany Square	1,577	\$2,450.00	Prefer 3-5 years; negotiable	Would require build-out for offices and conference rooms	Included	Included	20 shared spaces; current tenants utilize approx. 1/3 of existing spaces	Included	
		Base \$14 sq. ft. + \$4.65 for all other expenses		Lease and build-out based upon length of lease					

EDC Administrative Support

From: jimruff <jimruff@en-tel.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 10:50 AM
To: EDC Administrative Support
Subject: RE: OFFICE LEASE INFO

PROFESSIONAL SUITES BUILDING- 2015 FIRST ST SOUTH, NEXT TO OFFICE MAX

PARKING. WILL PROVIDE 3 DEDICATED, AND CAPABILITY OF 40-50

SQUARE FEET, MAIN SPACE 25 X 44 = 1100
CONFERENCE ROOM AND ADDITIONAL SPACE 25X15=425

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE = 1525(ADDITIONAL 600+/- AVAIL FOR FUTURE NEEDS)

TERM 5 YEARS

SEPARATE ROOMS- WILL CUSTOM DESIGN FOR TENANT NEEDS.. \$ LANDLORD TO PAY \$5000 REMODELING ALLOWANCE
BACK TO TENANT OVER 5 YEAR LEASE.(1000 PER YEAR)

BASE RENT \$9 PER SQ FOOT... .1144 PER MONTH
UTILITIES AND COMMON AREA AT 6.50 - 7 PER SF OR 826 TO 890 PER MONTH (INCLUDES SEWER, WATER, ELECTRICITY,
INSURANCE, HEAT, REAL ESTATE TAXES COMMON AREA MAINTENANCE. SNOW REMOVAL, GARBAGE) TENANT
RESPONSIBLE FOR CABLE, INTERNET, PHONE..=TOTAL OF 1970 TO 2034 PER MONTH..NOMINAL ANNUAL INCREASES
FOR UTILITIES AND REAL ESTATE TAX CHANGES..

DEDICATED ETHERNET IN PLACE-CAN BE MODIFIED TO SUIT TENANT NEEDS..

RUBBISH- INCLUDED IN ABOVE

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\$4250 / year
24 / CO - year
8 - each of 3
atly sessions
CVN

Professionally managed by Essex Capital, LLC, the Community Venture Network (CVN) was formed for rural communities and expanding companies in 1991 in an effort to bring high growth businesses together with economic development professionals seeking to attract business expansions and relocations to their community.

Emerging growth businesses find that the reduced operating costs, lower labor rates, attractive financial incentives and unified community support provide the maximum opportunities for successful business growth. Too often, however, the community and the business never find each other.

Thus CVN was formed to assist communities in identifying these potential prospects. CVN conducts active outreach programs to identify these emerging businesses and educate them on the benefits of seeking "out state" locations. We have a significant referral network and also conduct our own outreach, targeting companies in manufacturing, distribution, technology, medical and alternative energy industries.

Three times per year, we present 8 of these companies to our Network of communities and program partners. As a private program, we are membership-based and limited to working with 30 development groups. Programs are hosted in Minneapolis with ND, SD, MN, IA, WI and NE communities formally represented; other states can be brought into the fold when appropriate.

Each presenter works with our staff to craft a presentation and community expansion opportunity that will be presented in a summary document for each attendee as well as a 25 minute presentation. If you are a community interested in learning more or if you have clients who may benefit from being introduced to our Network of communities, please feel free to contact us at:

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(651) 204-2986*

October Projects Status Review 2013; Leroy Petersen

This brief paper will outline some history and the current status of activities for the agriculture and renewable energy specialist. Those are the Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education facility (DRTCEF); Renewable Resources Zone (RRZ); and compressed natural gas (CNG) infrastructure development.

DRTCEF:

The authority for this facility was established by Minnesota Statute 32C.01 – 32C.06 in May, 2012, and expires on August 1, 2017 if the board has not identified and acquired a site for a facility by that date. Though there seems to be a long time to accomplish this, the EDC believes that it is important to be an early player in the development of the vision and selection of the site for this facility.

Many in-depth conversations have yielded a wealth of information and perspectives on research facility herd size, teaching attributes, distance, local amenities, housing, profitability, public-private structuring, renewable energy research and profit centers, consumer education scale and scope. All of the following should be good contacts for future collaboration. Those conversations have been with University of Minnesota research Drs. Jim Linn, Noah Litherland, Marcia Endres, Abel Ponce de Leon, Bo Hu, Roger Ruan, and Ulrike Sorge. University of Minnesota Extension visits included Kathy Schwantes and Jim Paulson. Legislators include Senator Lyle Koenen, Representatives Mary Sawatzky, and Dean Anderson. Other legislative was Al Juhnke, former representative and current agriculture advisor to U.S. Senator Al Franken. Minnesota Department of Agriculture conversations included Commissioner of Agriculture Dave Fredrickson, Assistant Commissioner Charlie Poster and Agriculture Development officer Curt Zimmerman. Other conversations include several contacts from the AgStar conference in Indianapolis—Jerry Bingold, Mark Stoermann, Jed Stockton, Nina Kshetry, Dan Rice, and others. Minnesota milk industry professionals include Bob Lefebvure and Ted Radintz of Minnesota Milk Association and their appointed delegate Greg Jans, dairy farmer with 900 head herd. These should prove to be a considerable resources for the design and effectiveness of the DRTCEF, anaerobic digestion and co-products, consumer education components, and public/private research, teaching, and consumer education dairy partnerships.

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Pending visits include: University of Minnesota Drs. Brian Buhr and John Fetrow; Minnesota State University Mankato Dr. Bruce Jones; Minnesota Department of Agriculture biofuels specialist Kevin Hennessy; and Mitch Davis of Davisco.

The dairy authority board is currently realizing that they need to make some choices to refine their vision and move forward. Key decisions are prioritizing among research, teaching, and consumer education; and then determining scale and scope to make the vision become reality. There is a fairly strong political environment that says to keep the facility small (250 to 300 head), but researchers all agree that the more cows the better (800 to 2000 head). The University of Minnesota is discussing combining the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural resource Science with the College of Biological Science. There are some who feel that livestock research has passed its prime and there is some uncertainty about the future of animals on the St Paul Campus. If animal research stays, a likely part of the project will include some basic renovation of the St. Paul research facilities and funds should be allocated for such. There is not only a waiting list for firms desiring research at St. Paul, but other firms who do not come, because of the outdated facilities and small herd size.

One of the arguments against a large herd is that the message will be to small farmers that they do not matter. Others contend that the best way to benefit the small dairy farms is to provide meaningful, statistically significant research data. Arguably, that can only come from a herd with enough size to supply relevant research units (groups of cows) meeting a particular criterion for testing. In a recent visit, one who had been expected to follow only the small-herd mantra said that research needs would determine herd size. Large-herd proponents also point out the possibility that a large herd might have a non-research profit-center section of the dairy which had the purpose of generating profit to offset the substantial costs of research.

This is an opportune time to establish research into anaerobic digestion and several firms and researchers are very interested in working on models that would be a good fit. Drs. Bo Hu and Roger Ruan of College of Bioscience and Bio Engineering are looking for research sites and Nina Kshetry of UEM

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(<http://uemgroup.com/>) and Jerry Bingold of the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy are two of several who would be good collaborators in both design and operation.

Consumer education, general operation, and promotion are fortes of Mark Stoerman of Fair Oaks farms between Chicago and Indianapolis. He designed the consumer connection elements at Fair Oaks.

There have been some suggestions that the DRTCEF may not need to be all on one site, but may best serve the mission by being located where they could have the largest impact. I.e., the teaching facility could be near Ridgewater College Dairy Program students, consumer education could be in St. Paul near the metro population center, and the research station could be in Morris by the University or in New Sweden where the U of M already has a presence and is operating under a public private agreement with Davisco. John Fetrow and others believe that the differences between teaching and research make the two almost incompatible. However, some of the committee feel strongly that it should be all on the same site and, while Kandiyohi County is a preferred site for our Kandiyohi/Meeker proponents, just south of the Twin Cities Metro is their ideal and would be close to the metro consumer population, on the way from CFANS to New Sweden for research, and not really near an existing teaching college such as Ridgewater. This could be seen as a supportive argument for separating the DRTCEF according to function. Again, the committee must decide on purpose and mission.

I believe that the timeline for work on the DRTCEF at this time is mostly wait-and-see until the Dairy Authority committee makes the key decisions on scale and scope, but some work on developing alternative scenarios, gathering funding sources, and gauging interest among stakeholders are important activities. I am inclined to believe that, if not located entirely in Kandiyohi County, the DRTCEF should be located in two or three places. E.g., the teaching portion near Ridgewater College, research near other University established facilities—whether Morris or New Sweden (however, Willmar does have a University of Minnesota presence), and consumer education near St. Paul Campus/State Fair Grounds. One of the gentlemen that I talked to believes that the New Sweden/Davisco collaboration is a good model to follow, whereby the Davis Family Dairies built a facility and then extended an invitation to the University of

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Minnesota to establish a research presence. The key is that interested—and seriously passionate—people can move forward to build this without the red-tape and constraints of authoritative committees and then turn around and offer the University researchers and MNSCU the opportunity to participate. It just takes some determined people to get the vision, funding, and action together to make this happen.

Renewable Resources Zone:

The status of the Renewable Resources Zone (RRZ) is that it has been on hold while the DRTCEF foundational research has been accomplished, but now should be moved to active status. Several contacts with Senators, Representatives, revisor of statutes (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/office/publications.php>), and local officials have been made. I believe the next steps are to compose a rough draft outline of what is hoped to be accomplished by the RRZ and what the functional mechanisms are that will make it work; bring that outline to the revisor office at the Minnesota capitol to get help with composing the proposed statute; make contacts with the counties in the proposed RRZ and hear feedback from them as we present the case for it to them; and bring the proposed statute draft around to pertinent legislators. While meetings at this point are to paint a vision for all involved, it is also very important to gather their insights and invite their participation and support. Senator Lyle Koenen and Representative Mary Sawatzsky have been primary contacts, but Sen. Torrey Westrom, Reps. McNamar, Anderson, and Falk have also received a visit and information packet for the RRZ and DRTCEF.

Renewable Energy:

Some of the most commonly understood to be renewable energy are solar—solar photo-voltaic, solar thermal, wind. Not as many people think of the tremendous agricultural bounty of this region as renewable resources, but those have potential for new business activities such as biomass-to-_____. Along with wind-to-_____, there is nothing that is currently in either the design or build modes in Kandiyohi County. However, Renville County has had some activity with Agri-waste Energy. Ray Davey has had some sporadic conversations with EDC about that project, to express some interest in Kandiyohi County locations, and to ask EDC to find suitable project sites that have heavy truck and rail access, CNG

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pipeline availability, area for piling feedstock, and co-product potential customers. Chief among the factors causing hesitance and delay in bio are the low cost of natural gas, large corporate or cooperative builds of potentially competitive businesses, and lack of local finance resources in place for R & D initiatives. Many people have expressed interest/curiosity about anhydrous ammonia production status.

I believe there is an opportunity to take advantage of the low natural gas prices by helping local business supply natural gas to trucking fleets and farmers which would replace huge amounts of diesel fuel and save them many dollars. In talking with West Central Sanitation, the payback is expected to be 5 to 7 years switching some trucks to 100% natural gas and installing a private fuelling station. The payback from investing in a public fueling station could be much faster. There is also an opportunity for new business enterprises in providing readily available technology and equipment for switching fuels of those with voluminous fuel demands.

Other company interest:

Agri-waste Energy is a company that might have a good fit with producing renewable energy and co-products from manure digestion, waste treatment effluent, upgrading renewable natural gas (biogas) to pipeline quality, and installation of CNG fueling station. The company has done some work in Renville County, but status is unknown. The last time I talked to Ray Davey, he said that they were waiting for reviews and funding and that he would let me know when that came through. He also had said he and the CNG station builder would stop by to chat, but that has not happened yet.

Randy of Dooley's Petroleum and Greg Langmo have expressed interest in CNG for fuel in trucks and tractors. Don Williamson has first-hand knowledge and experience in setting up repair facilities and fueling stations for trucks that run CNG. Dooley would be good to follow up with.

Nina Kshetry of UEM Group is interested in small and large scale anaerobic digestion on farms, waste treatment, and other.